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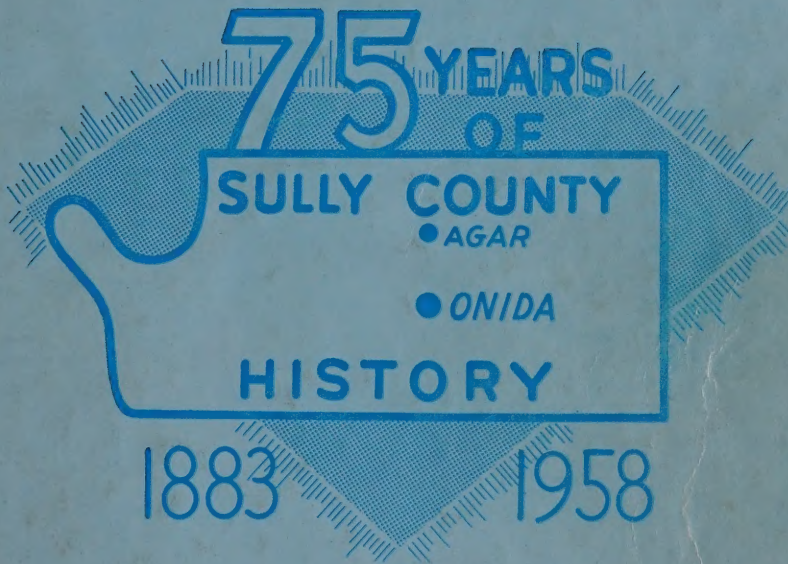


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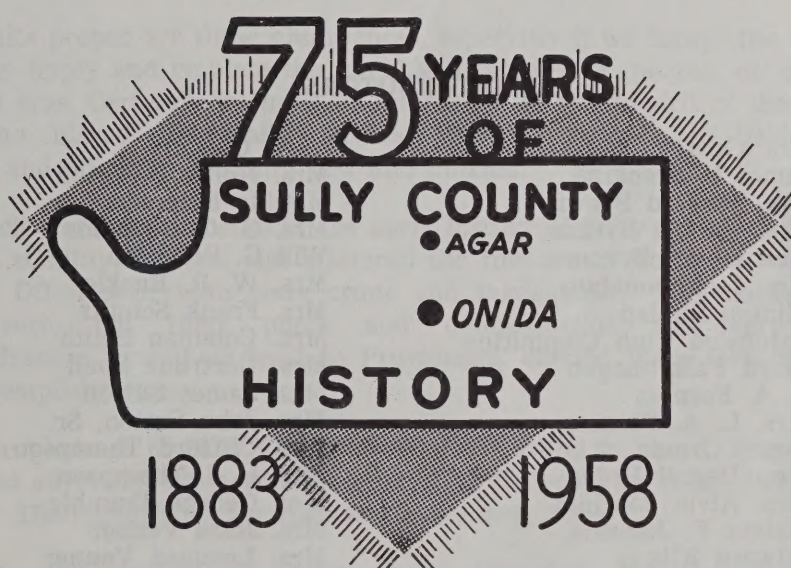
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Warren Miller
1961 -

THE FOUNDER OF ONIDA
Charles H. Agor



Charles H. Agar
THE FOUNDER OF ONIDA



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Dedication

Our anniversaries remind us that some adventurous and inspired folk in the past planned, pursued and accomplished.

Quite proper are these observances, especially if we accept the challenge they imply and emulate the notable examples of people of other years and eras. Certainly we must be impressed with the spirit of the pioneers who blazed the trails, worked out experiments in fields of endeavor and offered something new and untried.

Such were the pioneers in the early history of Sully County. They possessed stability, stamina and mastered the fine art of finding a way to succeed. Often their tools were crude and inadequate. The hardships were severe, but their pluck and determination to overpower their hindrances, and their trust in Providence, carried them forward to many accomplishments.

The pioneers of Sully County worked according to plan. They had a goal, and adversity, no matter how complex, did not alter their stubborn tenacity. Their decisions, for the most part, were wise.

We, the people of today, have inherited the benefits of the pioneers' work. Many burdens have been lightened, and progress in many fields is ours to enjoy. May we also inherit some of the same rugged spirit of our pioneers.

To the cherished memory of the pioneering men and women who came to Sully County in the early 1880's, and started a new life and home and developed this area of open prairie into a wealth of supernatural attainments . . . this book is dedicated.



The Spirit of the
Pioneer Woman

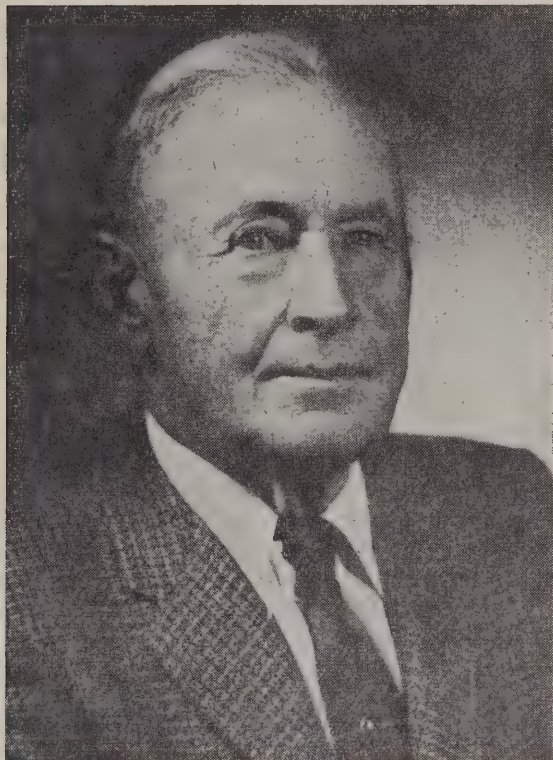
Foreward

Entwined into the elements of time during the past seventy-five years, are countless incidents and events that have influenced the lives of the people of Sully County.

Many have enjoyed lush years with abundant crops and well-fed cattle; and many also recall years of drought and depression. Those were the years that tried men's souls, but courage and perseverance triumphed over adversities.

It has been the sole intention of those responsible for this book to depict a true and concise picture of the development of this area through the years, and of the people who, through toil and trial, have made Sully County what it is today.

King and Queen



Luther Nelson

It seems fitting that the citizens of today express deep admiration and respect to those early pioneers who braved the unknown hazards of a virgin country and, as time passed, developed it as it is today. Symbolic of those early pioneers is Luther Nelson, who has been chosen "Onida's Diamond Jubilee King," thereby representing those courageous people who helped to make this fine heritage possible.

Luther was born in Sweden, on October 24, 1880, and at that time his father, Lars P. Nelson, had already made plans to come to America. Three of his older sons had made the trip to the United States in 1878 and 79, and had urged the family to come too, so that they could all go together to the newly opened territory of Dakota.

In April of 1881, when Luther was about six months old, the family arrived in New York, and came by train to Redfield. The rails ended there, so they traveled by stoneboat from Redfield to a



Bessie B. Lumley

To record the life history of a pioneer lady, whose eighty years of fruitful living and interesting experiences, such as those of Bessie B. Lumley, would fill a book. Therefore, the events in the four-score years of Onida's Diamond Jubilee Queen are merely highlighted.

Bessie Bagby was born in Atwood, Kentucky, on February 5, 1879. She was the second child and oldest girl in a family that was to grow to have thirteen children. In March of 1884, the Bagby family left their home in Kentucky, and headed for Dakota Territory. They stopped at Pierre, where a livery man took them on to Fairbank, a thriving little village with hotel, stores and a number of new homes. Soon after, word was received that the proposed railroad extension would not cross the Missouri River at Fairbank, as had previously been planned. It did not take the families long to move out and in a very short time Fairbank became a ghost town.

BESSIE B. LUMLEY (Cont.)

The Bagby family then moved to West Grandview Township where Mr. Bagby acquired a pre-emption homestead and tree claim. He made a home for the family in a large three-room dugout. The rooms were lined with lumber and lighted by windows arranged horizontally above the level of the ground. They were warm in winter, cool in summer and secure against the tornadoes that swept the land.

Bessie and her sisters and brothers went to school three months every fall and three months in the spring. During one of the terms, it was necessary for her and the other children to stay all night in the schoolhouse during the blizzard of 1888. Bessie's father was afraid the teacher, Ike McGannon, might let the children start home, so he set out on foot with food, crawling on his hands and knees a good part of the way. He found the children and teacher in the schoolhouse and he sat up all night with the teacher to keep fires burning while the children slept on the benches.

Bessie started teaching school at the age of 17 on a permit. She taught spring and fall terms between 1896 and the spring of 1902 in nearly all of the schools in the west end of Sully County. She earned from \$28 to \$35 per month and was able to save enough money to buy an old hotel building in the village of Okobojo, and had it moved to land that her father had bought at this time in East Grandview Township, to be used as a home for the large family. She paid \$150 for the eight-room, two story building and \$100 to have it moved up the Okobojo hill. It took 24 horses to pull it, mounted on wagons.

After teaching for seven years, Bessie married George W. Lumley, Jr., in 1902. They went to Little Bend as newlyweds and lived there for five years, later moving to Okobojo. Mr. Lumley took over the Gas Belt Telephone Company, he maintaining the lines and equipment, and she tending the switchboard and keeping the books, in addition to her duties as housekeeper and mother of three children: Gladys, now Mrs. Louie Bartels, of Gettysburg; George, Jr., who owns a drug store in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, and John, a civilian Personnel Director at MacDill Field, Tampa, Florida.

After eleven years in Okobojo, the Lumleys moved to Onida and took over

the telephone exchange until 1941, when the system went "dial". Those were dark days for Mrs. Lumley; she lost her job and her husband that same year.

In the spring of 1942, Bessie entered the race for the office of clerk of courts. She was elected and held that office continuously until she retired in 1958—a period of sixteen years. She was honored at a dinner given by the courthouse employees, and presented a tea apron, cleverly fashioned with 21 rosettes made of pleated dollar bills, a gift from the group.

During the seventy-four years that Bessie has lived in Sully County, she has seen the covered wagon and prairie trails change to automobiles and hard surfaced roads. Buffalo chips and twisted hay have grown dim in her memory as she sees automatic heat in rural homes. And running water, taken as a commonplace in farm kitchens, strikes her as a far cry from hauling water for the family and cattle in barrels. As to whether human beings have improved themselves at the same rate, she is not sure—she is non-committal. One thing sure, however, she loves people.

Because Bessie has always taken a keen interest in people of all walks of life, she has always been very active in organizations. She joined the Order of Eastern Star in 1907, and was Worthy Matron of the Capitol City Chapter in Pierre in 1913 and 1914, and was honored on five different occasions by the Grand Chapter of South Dakota. On April 2, 1931, she affiliated with the Onida Chapter, and on December 9, 1957, was presented a "50 Year" pin at the reception given in her honor. She also belongs to the American Legion Auxiliary and the Red Cross, besides local groups for community advancement and sociability. She was president of the Old Settlers' Association of Sully County in 1939, at which time she chose as her project the task of getting the Sully County History printed. She went to the county commissioners and told them that if they would lend her five hundred dollars to get the books printed, she would see they were paid back as the books were sold. The money was loaned, the books were printed and sold, and the county repaid. When she was president of the Community Church Social Circle in Onida, she undertook the job of getting the road graveled leading to the cemetery. Again she went to the county

officials, asking this time for the use of the county road building equipment for one day. Citizens donated labor and trucks; the women's group served a free dinner and a happy day was spent.

Bessie has always made a practice of visiting shut-ins, and is known, far and wide, for her good cooking and warm hospitality. She has a philosophy that one can have only what one gives. Accordingly, she will be abundantly rewarded.

LUTHER NELSON (Cont.)

pre-emption in Spink County. After selling this land in March, 1883, they packed up the stoneboat and moved on West to Blaine Township in Sully County where they filed on a homestead and tree claim.

Mr. Nelson built a three-room sod house in which his family lived for six years. Their first frame house, moved to the homestead from Blunt, burned to the ground, and another house was moved in from the northeast part of the county which became Luther's home for many years.

Luther attended Blaine grade school and received his high school academic education at Huron College. During the three years that he was a student there, he participated in the extra-curricular activities and was a letterman on the first college football squad.

After teaching three seven-month terms in Blaine Township from 1904 to 1906, Luther married Bessie Coquillette of Miller, whom he had met while he was a student at Huron. After their marriage in January of 1907, Luther gave up teaching and purchased the Barber place, now the Wayne Nelson home, and moved there with his bride that same month. Just one year later their house burned and was a complete loss. Luther rebuilt on the same place and it was in this house that their son, Wayne, was born. Luther's wife passed away about two years later and shortly afterwards, he sold the farm to Jack Doherty and moved back to the home place in Blaine Township with his young son. Luther repurchased the farm just east of Onida in 1947.

During the next few years Luther was kept busy with his farming operations and community activities. He was a member of the Blaine School board for over 10 years, and it was during that time the present schoolhouse was built.

In February of 1924, Luther married Ereka Eke Eller, who had taught in the new Blaine School. They purchased the old David Hall place, just across the road from the family homestead, and lived there until 1943. Then they moved to Onida and settled in the Adele Nelson home which Luther had previously purchased, continuing his farming and ranching operations with hired help.

During the past 15 years that Luther has been a resident of Onida, he has given generously of his time and talents to the good of the community and to the state as a whole.

He was a member of the State Legislature for the two sessions of 1941 and 1943, and is still an active Republican. He has been a member of the Presbyterian Church in Onida for 60 years and an elder for 25 years. In 1954, he was a delegate to the National Synod, representing the Onida Church and the Huron Presbytery, and was on the building committee for the present church. He is a charter member of the Sully County Farm Bureau, the Weed Board, Crop Improvement Association, Fair Board and Oneidians, and has held offices in these organizations at various times. He is Sully County Chairman of the South Dakota Bond sales Department, a member of the Stock Growers Association and was chairman of the Hospital Committee that raised the first \$20,000 towards the present Onida Hospital.

Much credit is given to his wife, Ereka, who has been a wonderful influence and has worked beside her husband in all of his enterprises. She has always been as enthusiastic about Sully County as has Luther.

He loved Sully County through blizzards, dust and depression, war and prosperity, and instilled those feelings into the hearts of his son, Wayne; his daughter-in-law, Sady; granddaughter, Julie (Mrs. James Sutton, Jr.), and two great grandchildren, Teri and Steven Sutton, all residing in Sully County and will be a living memorial to Luther.

Luther Nelson has made a name for himself and his family that will long be remembered in the annals of South Dakota history. Without men of this calibre, Sully County could not be what it is today.

In The Beginning

Onida first dotted the map on March 28, 1883, when H. C. Alexander, a surveyor, certified that at the request of Charles H. Agar, of Sully County, Dakota Territory, he plat into blocks and lots, streets and alleys, part of the Northwest Quarter of the Northeast Quarter of Section 11, Township 114, Range 77, West of the Fifth Principal Meridian, in Sully County, Dakota Territory, containing forty acres, for the purpose of laying out a townsite which he chose to call Onida after his home town in New York.

In the fall of 1882, Mr. Agar, Charles W. Holmes and Frank Brigham, all from Oneida, New York, came to central Sully County, which was then on the map, but still unsettled and unorganized, to look over the land and select a site for a town. Before returning to New York, both Agar and Holmes made a homestead entry and a tree claim, which entitled each of them to 320 acres of land—160 for the homestead, and 160 for a tree claim. Mr. Agar's homestead was located on what is now the Josh J. Hofer farm, and Mr. Holmes' was on what was later called the old Spencer place. After the three men had looked over the country and taken care of their business they returned to New York.

In March of the following year, Mr. Agar and his two daughters, Jessie and Minnie, and Mr. Holmes and his family left their Oneida, New York, home with all their belongings and started for Dakota Territory on an excursion train. They met up with M. B. Knight, who was also headed for Dakota Territory and G. W. Everts, an Ohio man, who promised to join in the development of the new town by starting a weekly newspaper. Mr. Agar planned to build a hotel, and with such broad ideas as making that town a county seat and expecting that one or more railroads would be built through the town, no wonder enthusiasm ran high among the newcomers.

However, it was on April 14, 1881, that Charles H. Agar gained control of the forty acres which later became the townsite of Onida, and which transaction was recognized by the United States of Amer-

ica. Control of this land was gained by Agar as an assignee of the legal representatives of Isreal Dodge, deceased, whose original claim was unsatisfied. Although Mr. Agar had taken steps to prove his right and claim by having this forty acres of land platted as a townsite, the Patent was not signed by President Chester A. Arthur until October 11, 1884.

Sale of Lots

On July 9, 1883, Charles H. Agar sold to Laver A. Agar, Lots 1, 2 and 3, Block 3, Original Onida; on May 25, 1883, Charles H. Agar sold to John J. Williams, Lot 28, Block 2, Original Onida; on July 9, 1883, Charles H. Agar sold to Frank A. Everts, Lot 5, Block 3, Original Onida, and on July 9, 1884, Charles H. Agar sold to Weyand & Brier, Lot 1, Block 4, Original Onida.

Original Onida included blocks one through four, platted March 28, 1883; First Addition to Onida included blocks five through 12, platted May 18, 1886; Second Addition to Onida, blocks 13 through 24, platted November 16, 1888; Cole's Addition, blocks 25 through 36, platted July 8, 1909, and Hyde's Addition, blocks one through 12, platted October 18, 1909.

Boardwalk Business

During the first week in April, 1883, Charles H. Agar, with the help of M. B. Knight and several other first settlers, constructed the very first building on the lot where the Onida Bank is now located. This building served as a lodging place for the land-seekers. Almost every evening several teams of newcomers would arrive from Blunt and want a night's lodging. One evening, in the early part of April, several teams drove up and John N. Garner, W. E. Garner, Romeo Garner, Thomas Gibson and William H. Shepherd asked if they could stay for the night. They had their own supplies and cooked their supper. Work on the building had been pushed and the interior was in fairly good shape when Mr. and Mrs. Joe McDonald took possession of the new hotel about May 1st.

At the same time the hotel was being constructed, two young men from Brighton, Iowa, Weyand and Brier, erected a store building on the present site of the Mosiman Hotel, stocked it with groceries and hardware, later adding dry goods. On May 2, B. F. Brier was appointed postmaster and he maintained the postoffice in the store. When the county seat moved to Onida, the county purchased this building, which served as the Sully County courthouse for 25 years. After selling their quarters to the county, the partners built again on the corner where Onida Electric is now located.

Another building erected at this time was the J. R. Lorenzen Store, next to the first Weyand and Brier Store. This was also stocked with groceries. Some years later this building was moved across the street and became the home of the Farmers Bank until it burned to the ground.

The first building to be completed, on May 6, was the office of the Onida Journal, located on the empty lot just



The first building to be erected in Onida, a hotel, is presently known as the Kimbell Apartments.

south of the present postoffice. E. W. Everts was the first publisher of the Journal. The Everts family arrived here on May 6. There were no houses to rent, so the newcomers, nine in all, made their home in the printing office until Mr. Everts built a house on his farm a mile south of town.

E. W. Blake, another business man, erected a building on the east side of the



First Courthouse in Onida

This building served as the Sully County courthouse from the time the county seat was moved to Onida in 1885 until the completion of the present courthouse in 1912. Pictured left to right—Walter Spencer, Dr. Kendall, M. H. Quimby, J. N. Garner, Robert Coleman, J. I. O'Donnell, T. L. Mitchell and Robert J. Courtney.

street, south of the Weyand and Brier Store, and had it stocked with groceries by May 24.

Another building erected the first year was the Hanson Provision Store, located on the west side of the street, south of the Onida Hotel.

The first three livery stables in Onida, belonging to G. W. Everts, Frank Brigham and the Hotel, which was located directly in back, were all demolished in the freak windstorm of June 20.

More Settlers

Dr. E. J. Loughlen and Joe McDonald, both from New York, came to the new townsite with one of the many parties of land-seekers. Others who journeyed West to secure free farm homes and build a town were E. W. Blake, James Otis, E. J. Schofield, Wallace Lilly, Asa Luther, Allen Starks, Dan Starks, Frank Brigham, Henry Sprague, Luther Downing, Frank Becker, George Stortz, D. Q. Jordan, Albert A. Snow, Giles Maxwell, Herbert Reeves, Elmer Anderson and a Mr. McGraw. The last two mentioned each brought a yoke of oxen to the country and did considerable early breaking for settlers who wanted small patches of ground broken.

Mrs. McDonald and Mrs. Brigham shared the honor of being pioneer ladies of the new village.

Locating the Village Well

Water supply was the first serious problem confronting the early settlers of Onida, as there had been no preparation made for this important essential.

Fortunately there was a lakebed north of the village that had filled with crystal clear water from the heavy rains during the spring of 1883. Water was hauled from there for human consumption, but for a short time only, as hundreds of teams of horses and oxen had been driven into it for watering by travelers going north into Potter and Walworth counties. It then became necessary to haul water from Blunt and every team going that way carried a supply of jugs, bottles and other receptacles that would hold water.

One day G. W. Everts returned from Blunt with a Jersey cow—the first cow in Onida and Onida Township. The Everts family, as well as the entire settlement, greeted the new arrival with joy, and

begged for just a cupful of milk. It was rationed out carefully as the most precious of fluids, and everyone, as far as possible, received a portion.

Prior to this a well had been located in back of the hotel and a small amount of water had been found at a depth of about ninety feet. However, provisions for walling in the well had been neglected until after the water was found, and it began to cave in, making it necessary to obtain water from another source. But where?

Finally, the willow wand was resorted to, and Mrs. Wallace Lilly was responsible for locating the site for the first permanent well, near the present Mosiman Hotel. She followed one vein running north and south, and a second vein, running east and west, crossing the first vein on the main street just a few feet south of Weyand & Brier's Store. Work was begun at once by a Mr. Jenkinson, who had dug the first well. Many anxious days followed and by the time Mr. Jenkinson had reached ninety feet with no sign of water, it seemed hopeless. However, those persistent pioneers were determined to find water, and as no better location could be suggested, they instructed the underground artist to continue digging.

Miracles did happen even back in those days of hardships and heartaches. At ninety-one feet, Jenkinson noticed an unusual amount of moisture on one side of the hole, so he immediately smoothed off the floor of the well. As he pulled his pick out from where he had observed moisture, a stream of water gushed out, rising far above his head. He screamed for help and the hoisting box was lowered as quickly as possible. He emerged from the well looking white as a ghost. The water rose about ten feet in ten minutes and continued to rise until at the end of an hour, it stood at a depth of fourteen feet. The sound of the running water could be heard almost a half a block away.

Wind Plays Freakish Pranks

A terrific storm of wind and rain struck Onida square in the face on the morning of June 20, 1883. There was one continual flash of lightning all across the horizon for almost two hours before the storm really broke, with the wind blowing briskly from the southeast. A dense cloud hung over the Missouri Buttes and no one

expected any serious damage from that direction. About noon the wind subsided and the storm seemed to have spent its fury. However, the storm from the buttes turned into a southeast course and apparently met the storm from the opposite direction. For a time the rain poured in a deluge and the wind increased to hurricane velocity.

The large livery stable west of the hotel was demolished and also the stable of G. W. Everts, and the thousand fragments were scattered for almost a quarter of a mile. The five horses, which were in the stable at the time, escaped with just a few cuts and bruises. The stable belonging to Frank Brigham was also demolished, but none of the six horses within were even scratched.

The Onida Hotel, which was over forty feet in length and two stories high, with a wing of about thirty feet, was carried several feet, but remained intact—just slightly out of line. The debris from the livery barn struck the Journal office with such force that one board coming endwise completely cut off a studding. The entire front was blown off east, and the west end carried around several feet, but owing to some solid board partitions the building remained intact. Eleven persons were sleeping in the hotel at the time of the storm, but none were hurt. The window of Hanson's provision store was blown out and the roof damaged considerably. Weyand and Brier's storeroom and Blake's grocery store were the only buildings not damaged. The claim shanties of Merritt Knight and Charley Tibbits were demolished, as well as others nearby.

When the gale subsided and it was found that no one was hurt, there was considerable relief among the residents.

The County Seat Controversy

In the early spring of 1883, the forty acres constituting the original townsite of Onida was visited by early settlers who filed claims adjacent thereto. As it was a new county in a new country, these settlers were vitally interested from the start in making Onida the county seat. At first Carson, another new town farther west, was the only contestant in the controversy, and its claims were given little weight. Accordingly the first settlers in 1883 regarded the county seat decided upon.

About this time, however, the Territory of Dakota had for its governor a man who had the reputation of disposing of county seats for a consideration. A board of commissioners was appointed by him, all reputable men and settlers of western Sully, and it was at once rumored that the governor was in some way connected as a silent partner in a new townsite to be located with the county seat in view.

When the commissioners visited Onida the latter part of May, it was rumored that inquiries were made concerning certain inducements. The reply was a negative one, so there was no surprise indicated when in a day or two afterwards, Onida people learned that a new townsite, called Clifton, had been located about eight miles west of Onida, and the county seat located there. These tales were generally believed, although the fact was that the charges were never investigated and nothing ever transpired that would have confirmed them.

Onida, however, believing in the justice of her cause, kept her settlement intact and resolved to battle for her spoils. Both contestants had about the same strength; however, Clifton may have had a slight lead in size. The issue was voted on by the electorate in the fall election of 1884. Onida won out by the small majority of five votes. The total vote cast showed Clifton 499 and Onida 504. The struggle in this campaign was intense and excitement ran high, but as far as was known, not a single fraudulent vote was cast. Unfortunately nine men failed to vote in the county and all those votes, had they been cast, would have been in favor of Clifton, for all those men lived in the western section of the county. The question was at once taken to the courts for decision. However, Onida did not wish to wait that long, so one of the commissioners, who was in command of the Onida forces, signed a contract, together with representative Onidans, that if the records were removed they would return them to Clifton if the decision of the court be in her favor, without expense to the county. Although the board of commissioners were supposed to favor Clifton two to one, the contract was accepted.

The board was in session at Clifton on April 9, 1885, and recessed at 11 a.m., to meet again in the afternoon. Unforeseen to Clifton, a large delegation of

Onida supporters appeared in Clifton and marched off with the safe and records before the people of Clifton could offer any resistance. The "spoils" were brought to Onida and deposited in the office of the Onida Hotel—Onida held the county seat!

A few days later, another crowd in charge of the county sheriff, who was a Clifton supporter, suddenly appeared in Onida. Within minutes an anxious group, triple that of the Cliftonites, soon gathered. Resistance was proposed, but word was passed around that a conference to decide action would be held.

The leaders of the Onida group assembled in a guarded room of the Onida Hotel. Mr. Eakin, the favorable commissioner to Onida's cause, acted as spokesman of the secluded group. He expressed his extreme certainty that someone would be injured or possibly killed if the two factions clashed. Also, if the court decided in favor of Clifton, the signers of the contract would be obliged to return the records personally, which would be humiliating, to say the least. If Clifton took them back, the contract would be released, and if the court decided in favor of Onida, Clifton would be outwitted a second time. His advice was heeded and the meeting adjourned—not one hand was lifted to oppose Clifton's action.

The spirits of the Onidans rose and volumes of gratuitous advice were given as to the best methods of procedure, even a pulley and tackle were loaned them to load the safe. The Clifton spirits fell inversely for they realized that some action had been decided upon of which they had no inkling. The unknown was more dreaded than the known. The assurance of the crowd and the doubt of when or where the bolt would strike possessed them. The victory had been too easy—they knew their crowd had been outnumbered. They sensed there was something behind the hush-hush of their opponents.

That night the records reposed in a mud hole on a farm just about midway between the two towns. Onida knew it, but had made their decision and the records remained there untouched.

A couple of weeks after this the case came up for hearing in the district court in Pierre. The judge decided that the nine blank votes were blank and could not be counted. It was late in the day and

the crowd from both sides retired to the hotel, gathering in the lobby to while away the time until the court reconvened next morning. That is, all but one person. He slipped out the back door unobserved and ran post-haste up the alley to a livery stable where he hired a team and drove to Blunt and then on to Onida, arriving about ten o'clock that night. Late as it was, runners dispatched the news far and wide to trusty adherents. Early next morning these men met in Onida and a goodly sized cavalcade departed for Clifton with evil intent.

The story is told of a Mr. Murray, a Clifton supporter, who was hitching up his team of mules and seeing the Onidans, he jumped into the wagon and lashed his team into a furious gait toward Clifton. The Onida crowd, seeing the funny side, fell in behind as fast as possible, cheering and yelling until they reached their destination in a cloud of dust and noise resembling a stampeding herd of cattle with Mr. Murray in the lead. This was the first news of the court's decision to reach Clifton. There were barely a half dozen men in the town at the time—all the rest were on the road home from Pierre. Less than two hours saw the safe and records loaded and just leaving town when over the hill to the south could be seen those who had attended the court proceedings, winding their way back home. They were completely surprised, but too late to prevent.

Clifton fought bravely on, and it was not until seven years later that the conclusive act was enacted. During all these years, Clifton had a majority of the commissioners in sympathy with her cause. One of these men eventually married a fine young lady in Onida, and with this contract passed the balance of power in the contest, for in a short time the newly married man was a convert to Onida and its interests.

Thus ended the Sully County seat controversy. Most of the population in Clifton having by that time been reconciled to the end.

Merrit B. Knight of Onida and Miss Carrie S. Cowan of Beaver Falls, Pa., were united in marriage on December 27, 1892, at the residence of Dr. Cowan in Chicago, Illinois.

Up and Down Broadway

Many changes have taken place up and down Main street—Broadway—since that historical year back in 1883, when the first settlers purchased lots, erected buildings and stocked their stores with the necessary provisions to carry on the activities of the bustling new village of Onida. As more settlers came, lots were purchased by enthusiastic businessmen and many new store buildings were constructed. Those early pioneers, who had settled in Clifton and established business places there when it was the county seat, moved their store buildings and homes to Onida after the county seat fracas. And so changes were made, down through the years. There are, however, several business places that have continued to operate in the same location and with the same family at the helm. The oldest being the Sully County Land and Abstract Company, which was established by J. H. Gropengieser in 1894 and is now being run by his daughter, Bess. The C. R. Garner Real Estate is still being operated by Mr. Garner; Hardwick's Store, formerly Knight's Store, is carried on by Mr. Knight's daughter and her husband, and Mr. Spears, who has been in the land business here for 45 years and in the same building for the past 39 years.

Cole Livery Stable (Red Owl)

One of the outstanding landmarks on north Broadway was the Cole Brothers Livery Stable that occupied the same location from the time it was moved here from Clifton in July, 1886, until Mr. Hortman purchased the building in March, 1925, and had it removed from its location. John and Ira Cole had the main part of the building erected in 1883, when they first settled in Clifton. It had a cement floor in the front part, which was the first floor or walk of its kind in Sully County. The building was painted a bright red and stood as a landmark for many years after it was moved to Onida. Bill Osterkamp ran the stable in the early 1900's, followed by Carl and Henry Wilken. Later J. L. Dillon and the Dillon brothers operated it.

In 1919, H. P. Knox bought the Cole corner and since there was not a demand for livery stables at that time, as almost everyone had a car, he turned it into an implement business and sold tractors and farm machinery. He also installed a gas pump to accommodate business for gasoline and oil when the garages were not open. Mr. Knox purchased the house that had been the D. W. Hyde home and the Knox family lived there until 1925, when the house, as well as the livery stable, was purchased by G. H. Hortman, of De Smet. Mr. Hortman had a filling station erected in its place called the H. & H. Service Station, which opened for business on May 10, 1925. After Orval Hortman bought out the interest of his father in the service station, he put in a new brick and concrete addition and added a grocery department. Following the second World War, the business was taken over by his son, Cecil, and Marvon Severson, when they returned from service. Within a few years the partnership dissolved and Severson went into the grocery business in Cleveland, Minnesota, where he now resides. Cecil then took over the Red Owl Agency and operated it until April, 1955, when he and his wife, Marge, and two children, Barry and Miki, moved to Provo, Utah. Cecil and Marge now own and operate a business called Ace Rents, Inc., located in Orem, Utah, and have purchased a new home in Provo.



Original Frank Hoover Barber Shop **Otto Nelson** (Blue Room)

When Frank Hoover came to Onida in 1909, there were no barber shops, so, being a barber himself, he erected a 12 x 28 foot building on Broadway, just north of the Sanitary Meat Market and opened the Star Barber Shop. The following year, in September, William Renn purchased a half interest in the business and it was then that the partners moved their equipment into the south half of the French building (Coast-to-Coast) and operated the Star Barber Shop at that location.

Otto Nelson then purchased the barber shop building and W. W. Jordan and C. H. Lewis opened a meat market called The City Market. Then C. I. Jones took over and changed the name to the Jones Meat Company.

When James Nystrom returned home following World War I, he purchased the building and business and also changed the name to the City Meat Market. C. C. Lyons of Agar became a partner in the business in the early twenties, and they operated as partners at that location until the fire of September 13, 1925, originating in the City Garage, destroyed the garage and the two buildings to the north. Lyons and Nystrom then secured one of the Serbousek buildings across the street and were back in business within a few days.

The meat market lot remained vacant until Clarence R. Brabec purchased the lot and had a new building erected. Mr. Brabec, who came here as a barber and worked for Sig Severson in his shop, married Hazel Hortman in the early twenties.

Brabec opened a barber shop in his new building and named it the DeLuxe Barber Shop. Then in July, 1930, he divided the building and had his shop in the north half and opened the DeLuxe Beauty Parlor in the south half. Miss E. A. Devine, of Pierre, was the beauty operator for a time and later Elsie Lindell located there. In 1935, Mr. Brabec discontinued the barber shop and the beauty parlor and opened a cafe. He and Mrs. Brabec ran the cafe until 1940, when Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Reedy purchased the business and called it Betty-Jacks Inn. They ran it until the fall of 1945.

Then Mr. and Mrs. Nick Jackus, of Pierre, took over the cafe and had the interior remodeled and changed the name to American Cafe. The business changed management several times during the next few years, until Dick Mehrer came here from Pierre and operated the cafe until the spring of 1958.

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Original E. E. Brooking Building John Nelson

(Schaeffer Hardware)

In August, 1909, E. E. Brooking had a 20 x 30 foot building erected north of Hyde & Holmes Store (Hardwick's) and established the Sanitary Meat Market. In

May, of the following year, Mr. Brooking sold his business to Frank Snell and Enos Thorn, and in a few months the business was again sold to Jordan and Lewis, relatives of E. E. Heywood. It wasn't until January, 1911, that electric lights were installed in the building.

John Nelson then purchased the lot and business and engaged C. I. Jones to operate the market, which he did until the fire in 1925 destroyed the building. Mr. Nelson then had a brick and tile building erected on the same lot and Mr. Jones operated the market until February, 1927, when Carl Bohnhoff, of Gettysburg, came here and took over the business, changing the name to the Bohnhoff Market. When the partnership of Lyons and Nystrom across the street dissolved, Jim Nystrom went into partnership with Bohnhoff for a short time. Mr. Bohnhoff returned to his home town of Gettysburg and Nystrom then took over the entire business, changing the name to Nystrom's Market.

When L. C. Ridinger came to town in 1928, he purchased the business from Nystrom and operated the market until 1936, when he moved his merchandise into his new building (Kubs).

Orval Hortman then purchased the lot and building and opened a hardware store. His brother-in-law, Clint Hagen, went in as a partner and the business was then called H & H Hardware. In November, 1950, John Schaeffer and Vic Bosma purchased the business and operated as partners until the summer of 1952, when Mr. Schaeffer bought out the Bosma interest and became the sole owner.

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Mr. and Mrs. John Schaeffer and daughter Linda Kay came to Onida on December 1, 1950, from Herreid, South Dakota. Mr. Schaeffer took over the H & H Hardware.

They lived in an apartment for a short time and then purchased the Lee Rappana house where they have made their home. In 1952, another daughter, Mary Lou, was born.

The Schaeffers have been active in civic affairs, organizations and church work. Mrs. Schaeffer (Edna) is director of the Methodist choir and also sings in the Sully County Chorus.



Dr. Hart's Garage (Onida Produce)

In 1906, Fischer and McGinnis built a garage and repair shop on the lots where the Ed Cruthoff home is now located. Later the building was moved to the site of the present Ken Miles' home. Mr. and Mrs. George Worley of Salix, Iowa, operated the business and made their home in the front part of the building. After they left, the building was vacant for a time and then it was used for dances and basketball practice and games.

Dr. B. M. Hart purchased the building in 1921, and had it moved to Main street, just north of Knight's Store. It was then called the City Garage. The McGuire brothers and Bert Haverly sold Chevrolet cars, operated the garage, repair shop and a gasoline pump until the building was completely destroyed by fire on September 13, 1925.

A year later, in October, 1926, Dr. Hart let a contract to Serbousek and Phares for a new brick and tile garage. The new building was ready for occupancy by December 15. Harry and Joe McGuire leased the front part of the building for their garage, and Ervin Cleveland leased the back part for repair work. Then Gustafson and Reedy purchased the business in May, 1929, and a year later, Jack Reedy bought out Gustafson and operated the business until the spring of 1935, when he became sheriff. Then he sold to Orval Hortman, who acquired the Chevrolet Agency. Mr. Hortman operated his garage there until he bought the John Adams Garage and moved across the street.

Then Max Rodman rented the building from Dr. Hart and started the Onida Produce in 1940. When Dr. Hart moved to California, Max purchased the building and ran the Onida Produce until 1945, when he sold the business to Roy Sweaney and C. A. Kessler. They stayed there

Dr. Hart's Garage: Built by Fisher and McGinnis in 1906 and called Onida Garage and Repair Shop. Located on the present site of the Ed Cruthoff residence, and then moved to the present location of the Kenneth Miles home, where the picture was taken.

about three years and then sold out to Bob Mikkelsen, who added a Massey-Harris line to the business. Mikkelsen sold out the produce business to Donald Currier in 1953. Mikkelsen then erected a building on the corner of Highway 83 and operated the implement business there for a short time. That business is now known as the HiWay Garage.



Knight's Store (Hardwick's Store)

M. B. Knight left New York state on March 6, 1883, on an excursion train to Dakota Territory. He met C. H. Agar on the train, who was bringing land seekers to build a hotel at a spot somewhere north of Blunt. That spot became Onida. A blizzard kept them from getting to the place where Mr. Agar decided to build the hotel. They arrived at that spot April 2, 1883.

Mr. Knight was the cook at the Onida Hotel, taught school several years, worked



Mr. and Mrs. M. B. Knight: She was prominent in musical and social circles in the early days. Mr. Knight, one of Onida's very first settlers, as he appeared in 1885.



Interior of Knight's Store
in 1917: Pictured, left to
right, E. E. Brooking, M.
B. Knight, Lillie Sheffer,
Clarissa Knight (Mrs. Earl
Hardwick) and Inman Ol-
son.

for M. L. French in his store and post office, took up a tree claim three miles southwest of Onida and built a house on this tree claim. In December of 1892, he went to Chicago and was married to Carrie S. Corvan of Cubs, New York. They lived on the farm until March, 1910, when he traded the farm to M. A. Hyde and C. W. Holmes, who were running a store, for a store and house, in which M. A. Hyde lived. That store building was the building which is now the Chase Bakery, and at that time the building stood just north of the present Hardwick Store and the house was connected to the store. Mr. Knight had the house moved over east of the courthouse and it is now the home of Mrs. Clara Crosby.

This store had been started about 1889, by Mr. and Mrs. Fred Hampton, who stayed a couple of years and then it became the Hugh Porter Store. In 1900, C. W. Holmes and M. A. Hyde ran it in partnership until they traded it to Mr. Knight for his farm, in 1910. The store continued in the old building that is now the Chase Bakery until 1911, when Otto Nelson built a two-story building on the lot south of the red store. When that new building was finished, Mr. Knight moved

the store into it and the old store building was sold to L. A. Temmey and moved to the site of the present Chase Bakery.

Mr. Knight ran Knight's Store and had Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Worley work for him for three years. The Worleys built the house known as the McLaughlin house, and lived there until they moved to Illinois in 1914. Then Miss Ruth Hyde worked for Mr. Knight until she went to Rochester, Minnesota, to take nurses' training. Then John Bauman worked until he went into partnership with Ed Sutton, when they purchased the Johnson and Spears Store in 1918. E. E. Brooking was a clerk until he moved to Huron. By that time the first World War was over and Earl Hardwick came to Onida in April, 1919, and has been associated with the store since that time.

Earl and Mr. and Mrs. Knight's daughter, Clarissa, were married in 1922.

Mr. Knight passed away in 1925, and Earl took over management of the store at that time. Throughout the years he has employed Gus Hollander, of Redfield; Miss Mary Gruver, who worked during her summer vacations from teaching, and Mrs. Nellie Dunlap, who worked for 10 years until she moved to Huron in 1928.

The Two Small buildings, on left, were moved east of the courthouse, enlarged and remodeled and became the Knight home. The next building was the Hugh Porter General Store, then became the Knight's Store, and after being moved is now Chase's Bakery. Mr. and Mrs. Porter and their daughter, Lulu, are standing in front of their store.



The Hardwick Family —

Bernice, Earl, Patsy the dog, and Clarissa. Taken in their home on Christmas, 1944. Mr. Hardwick is holding one of his gifts, the book, "Try and Stop Me."



Mrs. Knight passed away in 1931. The name of the store was then changed to Hardwick's, under Earl's management. They have this year had a confirmation of their order with the Mishawaka Rubber Company of Mishawaka, Indiana, for having given them an order for rubbers and overshoes each year for fifty years.

Hardwick's have had the experience of moving everything out of the store twice because of fire. The first time, in 1919, when the Sutton and Bauman store burned, and again in 1925, when the garage just north of them burned. At the time of the 1919 fire, their merchandise was all out in the street and before they could get it back in the store a blizzard came and blockaded the railroad so there were no trains for three weeks and they were the only store left in town.

The Hardwicks lived one year in the house where Vern Palmers now live, and then bought the house known as the Brunneman house and have lived there since 1923.

Mr. and Mrs. Hardwick have one daughter, Bernice, (Mrs. R. S. Lincoln).



Charles Dalton Bank Building (Watchman Office)

Charles Dalton, of Pierre, had a brick front building erected on lot eight, block two, original Onida, in the spring of 1910, to house the Sully County State Bank, which had originally opened in the Lorenzen building on the east side of the street in block four, on October 5, 1889—Onida's first bank. The original corps of officers were Eugene Steere, president; W. W. Waite, vice president, and Walter N. Mel-

oon, cashier. Several years later, the building housing the bank was moved to the west side of the street, south of the old Onida House.

The new bank building was completed the last week in May, and the Sully County State Bank opened for business on June 1.

In December, 1915, the Sully County Bank and the First State Bank consolidated and operated as the First State Bank in the new building; the Sully County Bank being liquidated.

The Onida National Bank opened for business on July 6, 1925, with the following officers—Charles L. Hyde, president; W. H. Durrstein, vice president; Byron S. Payne, vice president; Arthur J. Owens, cashier, and S. E. Dons, assistant cashier. Then in June, 1930, the Onida National Bank and the First State Bank merged, moving into the brick bank building on the corner. Then George Zimmer, publisher of the Onida Watchman, purchased the Dalton building where the newspaper has remained to date.



C. R. Garner Real Estate

H. E. Kimmel established a real estate and abstract business on Main street in a small building south of the old courthouse about 1896, on the old John Day Implement site, called South Dakota Farm & Title Company. Later he had a house moved in from the country and located it on lot nine, block two, original Onida and moved his real estate and abstract business to that building.

In 1898, Mr. Kimmel sold a half interest of his business to C. R. and Claude Garner (cousins). Two years later, due to



The office building of C. R. (Millie) Garner since 1900. Pictured, left to right, Wm. D. Hughes, stenographer; Mr. Garner, and Victoria (Brooking) Johnson, office girl and stenographer.

his wife's health, Mr. Kimmel sold his business interest to the Garner boys, and in 1902, C. R. bought the entire real estate and abstract business. It was then called C. R. Garner Real Estate & Abstract Company.

Mr. Garner has maintained his land business in that same building for 56 years. However, he did sell the insurance part of his business to Bob Koenig in 1954, but retains the abstract and leasing.



Miss Maud Cole, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Cole, and C. R. Garner, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Garner, were married in Onida on October 12, 1904.

The newlyweds established their first home on Mrs. Garner's homestead about three miles northeast of Onida. After

eight months, she filed on the claim, and they then moved to a residence in Onida which had already been purchased by Mr. Garner—the present Niehoff home.

Their daughter, Audrey, was born in 1906. A short time later they built the "Castle", as many of the young people refer to it, where the Garners have made their home for over 50 years.

One interesting incident related by Millie, as he is called by all his friends, was when a group of men were out with him in his new 1908 Buick one afternoon, looking over the crops between Onida and Gettysburg. It seems that Millie spotted a large coyote ahead of the car, so he speeded up and just as he was almost upon the animal, it turned into the ditch and out into the open field. Millie

C. R. Garner in his Real Estate and Abstract office in 1910.





Mr. and Mrs. C. R. Garner, Onida's earliest living residents.

managed to swerve the car out of the rut in the road and drove into the field after the coyote. Before he realized how close he was to the animal, he had run over it and killed it. As a remembrance of that day's ride, he had the coyote's skin tanned as a souvenir.

Audrey Garner went through grade school and one year of high school in Onida and then finished her three years of high school in Long Beach, California. She also took a secretarial course in Long Beach, received her B. A. degree in English in UCLA, Los Angeles, and her Masters in Economics at the University of California, at Berkeley. She taught school prior to her marriage in September, 1934, to Arthur F. Halloran, a native son of California. They now reside in Wichita Wild Life Refuge, Oklahoma, and have two sons, Arthur F., Jr., and John Garner.

Mr. and Mrs. Garner have both been active in church, civic and social affairs in Sully County during the four-score years they have been here. Mr. Garner was a band man, a soloist in church and at public affairs, played the violin, was mayor of Onida for four years, a charter member of the Oneidas Club, Mason, Eastern Star and Shrine member, and was one of the early pioneers directly responsible for the growth and prosperity of the community.

Audrey Garner in 1926, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. R. Garner. She is now Mrs. Arthur F. Holloran.



Temmey's Land Office Building and Watchman Office

(Chase Bakery)

The old M. B. Knight Store building was moved onto the Temmey lots just north of the First State Bank (Coast-to-Coast) when the new Knight building was completed. Mr. Temmey established his real estate and insurance office in the front part and after his son, James E., purchased the Watchman, he moved the newspaper into the back part of the building. The Watchman remained in this building until George Zimmer, who took over the newspaper from C. L. Bates, purchased the Dalton bank building and moved his newspaper into that building.

Mrs. Myrtle Money ran a cafe in this building for about ten years, after which it was empty for some time.

In 1945, Clarence Chase purchased the building and bakery equipment and started a bakery, later adding a coffee bar.

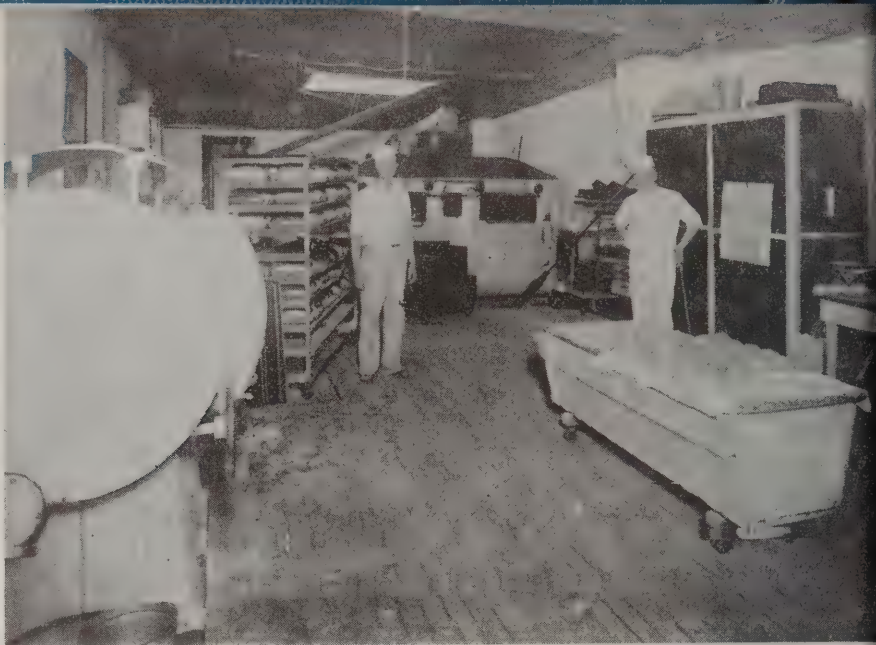


Clarence Chase came to Onida from Faulkton, South Dakota in 1933, and purchased the Sunshine Bakery from George Zimmer. The following year he married Vera Moulton, of Cresbard. The Chases' have four children—Lyle, who is attending State College, and Lyman, a student at Northern State Teachers College, Aberdeen. Gary, a freshman in Onida High School, and Koreen, a seventh grader. Two children passed away in infancy; Lionel, complications from a burn when he was a year old, and Virginia, who lived only two weeks.

Mr. and Mrs. Chase lived in an apartment over the Sunshine Bakery and then moved into the Brooking house, the Orville Davis home. In 1937, Mr. Chase had one of Mr. Spaulding's houses moved to Onida from west Sully and remodeled it for their present home.

In 1938, the bakery was moved into the north half of the present Coast-to-Coast Store where Mr. Chase ran his bakery until 1940. At that time he sold his bakery equipment to George Zimmer and rented his house to the Mott Geiser family. Then the Chase family moved to California for three years. Clarence was drafted for military service in 1943, but by the time he had moved his family back to Onida, where they owned their home, and he had returned to California, the

Interior of Onida Bakery in 1933, owned and operated by Clarence Chase, located in the present White Owl Barber Shop building. Pictured, left to right, Lionel Knudson and Mr. Chase.



draft age had been lowered and he was too old to go into service.

Clarence spent the next five years doing construction work. In 1948, he repurchased his bakery equipment from Mr. Zimmer and bought the present building where he has served Onida and the surrounding area with a first class bakery. A coffee bar was added several years ago—the most popular spot in Onida during coffee breaks.



Original Faust Building

M. L. French

(Coast-to-Coast)

In July, 1894, Albert A. Faust purchased lot 11, block two, original Onida, and had a store building erected. Mr. Faust operated a general store for a short time and then sold out to L. A. Temmey.

Mr. Faust died June 22, 1908, from injuries sustained in a runaway accident. He came to Sully County in 1883, and was a county sheriff.

Mr. Temmey had traded land for a stock of merchandise which he sold out in his general store and in a short time, he sold the building to M. L. French.

The First State Bank opened for business in the north half of this building on October 16, 1901, with a capital stock of \$5,000, and Mr. French as cashier. In December, 1910, the bank purchased the building from Mr. French.

Hoover and Renn operated their barber shop called the Star in the south half of the building until January, 1911, when they moved into the Gropengieser build-

ing across the street. Then Fred Tyler ran a jewelry store in the south half that Hoover and Renn had vacated. Mrs. French also had a millinery shop in that portion of the building. This arrangement didn't last long, however, for a druggist by the name of O. S. Close came to Onida and purchased a part of the building on the south half, making it necessary for the jewelry store and millinery shop to vacate. Mr. Close then established a drug store in that half.

Then in December, 1915, the First State Bank, outgrowing the north half of the building, bought out the Sully County State Bank and moved into its location (Watchman Office). Mr. Close then used the entire building for his drug store. The old safe which was brought to Onida from Clifton in the county seat fracas, was put in the Close Drug Store in December, 1921.

Pat Abbott came to Onida in 1924, and purchased the building and drug store and operated it until he moved into his new drug store building in June, 1928. He then leased the building to Mott Geiser and Marvin Keck, who divided the space once more. Mr. Geiser established an electrical shop on the south side, and Keck, who had purchased the Onida Cleaning Works from C. W. Nattress in April, 1928, operated his business on the north side of the building. Mrs. Keck opened a millinery shop in a small part of the north side in March, 1929. In May, 1930, Mr. Keck added a shoe repair shop to his cleaning establishment. In November, 1934, he sold his business to Ted McGuire.



The M. L. French store building in 1910, with the First State Bank in the north half and Hoover and Renn's Barber Shop located in the south half. This store is now Ed and Pat Cruthoff's Coast-to-Coast Store. The building to the right is the present Chase's Bakery. Pictured, left to right, George Becker, looking in the barber shop window; George Nelson and Inga Nordess, sitting on

the back of the car; John Adams and Bertha Downing, in the front seat, and Mable Finch and T. L. Mitchell, standing beside the car. In the next group are L. A. Temmey and J. L. Sheffer, standing in front of the bank door; R. B. Dunlap, J. H. Gropengieser and M. L. French standing beside the car; George Worley, sitting on the edge of the car, and Leon French and Mrs. Charles Worley in the front seat.

Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Keck and two sons, Roger and Jimmy, came to Sully County in 1920, from Brookings, South Dakota, and purchased a farm in Farmington Township. When Mr. Keck became register of deeds in 1925, the family moved to Onida and built the house that is now the home of Mrs. June Ellis. Mrs. Keck was her husband's deputy during his two terms in office. In 1927, another son, Russell, was born. Mr. Keck purchased the Onida Cleaning Works from C. W. Nattress in 1929, and operated that business until he sold in 1934, and the family moved to Rapid City. Since living in the Gate City, Mr. Keck has been employed in the post office and Mrs. Keck owns and operates an employment agency. Roger is with the International Harvester Company and lives in Chicago. Jimmy works for an insurance agency in Rapid

City, and the youngest son, Russell, is a shoe salesman and owns two shoe stores in Laramie, Wyoming. All three boys are married and have children.



The next business to occupy the French building was an ice cream and milk store run by Max Rodman.

In 1938, Clarence Chase moved his bakery into the north half of the building and Lee Rappana established a creamery in the south half. About a year later, Rappana discontinued his business and Frank Frahm moved the barber shop equipment, that he had purchased from Clarence Brabec, into the south half. Then in 1940, Mr. Chase discontinued his bakery and Mr. Frahm also moved out. The building was then empty for a few years until Everett Stewart purchased the

building from Mr. Abbott and moved his Minneapolis-Moline business from the Serbousek building. The business was named Stewart Implement. In 1947, Ed Cruthoff became a co-owner and the partners added the Marshall Wells line to their business.



Original M. L. French Building

Johnson & Spears

(Spears & Spears)

M. L. French purchased lot 12 in block two, original Onida about 1900 and had a building constructed to use as a store. He became postmaster in 1892, and had his post office in this building until 1894. He opened a general store and later his son, Leon, established a restaurant in the building until January, 1911. Then the Onida Supply, Fisher & French, moved their stock of clothing in from the Dunlap building.

When Otis French sold the building to Johnson & Spears Land Agency in March, 1919, the partners had the building remodeled before moving in from their office building back of the Corner Store. This partnership lasted until 1941, when the L. D. Johnson family moved to Upland, California. The name of the business was then changed to Spears & Spears and has remained so since that time.



Miss Aster Davis came to Onida in 1918, from Farina, Illinois, and taught in the Onida High School until she was married to W. B. Spears in June, 1921.

The newlyweds went to Minneapolis on their honeymoon and while there, purchased furniture for their new home. Upon returning to Onida, they moved into the new house that had been built by the McConnachie Construction Company, and have made that their home during the past 37 years.

The three Spears children graduated from Onida High School. Both girls, Margaret Fern and Cathy, were very active in music and social circles, bands and glee clubs.

Margaret Fern was valedictorian of her class in 1940. She attended McAllister College in St. Paul, Minn., and later married Warry Winters, of New York City. They had a son, George, and a daughter,

Julie. Mrs. Winters passed away in the summer of 1955.

Cathy attended Northern State Teachers College, Aberdeen, and then taught school at Mobridge and at Philip, South Dakota, where she was married to Bill Bien in 1944, while he was in the service. They went East to his home in Baltimore, Maryland. Mrs. Bien is now living in Richmond, Virginia, and is employed as secretary to the Planning Board for the City of Richmond.

Bill went into the service and later attended the University of South Dakota, graduating from the Law Department. He married Miss Barbara Krumm, of Huron, in December, 1957. They went to Dallas, Texas, where she is studying to be a medical doctor and is now serving her internship at Fort Worth, Texas. Bill is practicing law.

Mr. and Mrs. Spears have given a great deal of their time and efforts to the growth and improvement of Onida and have been active in church and civic organizations through the years. Mrs. Spears has always been a leader in musical circles, having given piano lessons, was pianist and a member of the choir in the Presbyterian Church, besides working diligently in the various church organizations.



Abbott Drug

In the spring of 1928, Pat Abbott purchased from the Onida Holding Company the lot just north of the Corner Store, Bauman and Welch, and had a 25 x 60 foot modern brick and tile building constructed for his drug store. Pat and his employees moved into the new building the first week in June.

Through the years, Pat employed various people in his drug store, some of



Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Abbott, Onida drug store owners for 17 years.



W. G. (Pat) Abbott in his new drug store in 1936.

those being Mrs. Jack Reedy, Marcel Christianson, Mrs. Ackers, Jimmy Hilton, Max Rodman, Miss Engelbretson, Walter Nelson, Mrs. Bert Knox, Maynard Knox, Elmer Weide, Mrs. Mae Becker, Mrs. Veda Christy, Miss Emma Vogelsang, Mrs. Emma Novachek and Mrs. Fred Snyder.

Pat kept up with the changes in merchandise and operated a very up-to-date and complete drug store during the 17 years he was in business.



Margaret and Pat Abbott came to Onida on January 1, 1924, from Huron. Previously, they had owned and operated drug stores at Iroquois and Harrold, South Dakota.

Pat purchased the Close Drug Store and the building in 1924, now the Coast-to-Coast Store, from O. S. Close and operated that drug store until 1928.

When Mr. and Mrs. Abbott and their two children, John and Charlotte, came here, they lived in the house now occupied by Tony Lamb. Then in 1925, they built the home where they are now living.

Both John and Charlotte graduated from Onida High School and were both active in school and community affairs and popular young people.

John graduated from State College at Ames, Iowa, with a degree in engineering. He was employed with Westinghouse Electric Company in Chicago for two years and was then recalled as a reservist in the army. He married Lynn Ann McDonald from South Carolina, in Anchorage, Alaska, on October 6, 1951. While living in Washington, D. C., Lynn and John

adopted an eight-month-old baby boy and named him Bruce David. As this history comes to a close, the young Abbotts have adopted another little boy whose name is Hans Christopher. Major and Mrs. Abbott and their two sons are now at Orley Air Force Base, Paris, France.

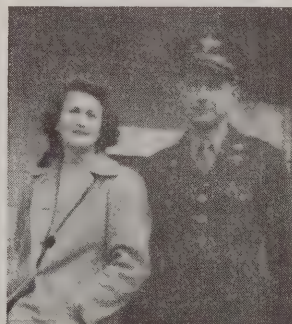
Charlotte attended Yankton College for two years and then went to Iowa State Teachers College, Cedar Falls, Iowa. She taught school at Gregory, South Dakota, and Norfolk, Nebraska.

Then she enrolled in an Airline Training School in Denver and worked in the Airline Terminal Office in that city about a year. She married Walter John Kotchik, of Portland, Oregon. They have two daughters, Lynn, 7, and Jill, age 3. Charlotte and her family live in Portland.

Pat was city auditor for 12 years, 1942-1954; two years of which included managing the Onida Community Hospital.

Since selling their drug store in 1941, the Abbotts have been semi-retired and have spent several winters in a warmer climate.

Miss Charlotte Abbott (Mrs. W. J. Kotchik) and 1st Lt. Jack Abbott, daughter and son of Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Abbott. Taken in 1944 at Norfolk, Nebraska, when Charlotte was teaching there and just before Jack went overseas for World War II duty.



Corner Store (Onida Electric)

The first general store established on the corner (known for years as the Corner Store) was opened by A. A. Faust on March 22, 1890. Mr. Faust also operated a land and loan broker office in his store. Their home was just north of the store.

The next proprietor of the Corner Store was L. A. Temmey, who moved a small stock of dry goods and groceries from his first location down in block three (Variety Store). He then established the Temmey Store and he and Mrs. Temmey operated a general merchandise store until 1907, when Mrs. Temmey was injured in a horse and buggy runaway and was unable to assist in the store. It was then that Temmey sold his store to Johnson and Nelson.

Mr. Temmey then opened a real estate office in the front part of the present Chase Bakery building and continued in the real estate business which he started in Blaine Township. The Temmey family lived in the N. W. Porter house, now the Wilber Day home, from the time they moved here until they left. The family moved to Huron in 1918, where Mr. Temmey continued in the real estate business until his death.

Johnson and Nelson were the next proprietors of the Corner Store, and in November, 1911, they sold to Washburn and Linsted, of St. Paul, Minnesota. This partnership lasted until 1918, when Johnson and Spears took over the business for a short time. Sutton and Bauman were the next partners, and it was while they were in business that the fire in November, 1919, completely destroyed the building and its contents. The building had been leased for five years from Mrs. C. J. Johnson. Ed Sutton then purchased the corner lots in December and almost immediately a new Sutton-Bauman store building was erected.

The next proprietors were John Bauman and Fred Welch, who purchased the building in January, 1926. The partnership dissolved and Bauman operated under the name of Bauman's until they sold to Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Ludwig in 1946. Ralph and Mae Ludwig operated the store for 10 years, selling out at an auction sale in 1956. They now own and operate the Isabelle Motel in Huron.

Original Onida Hotel (Onida Bank)

Mr. and Mrs. Joe McDonald were the first proprietors of the Onida Hotel and took possession about May 1, 1883, before the interior was completely finished. Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Cole were the next operators, leaving here in January, 1909. They were followed by Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Silbaugh, who took over the management of the hotel and cafe and served good meals for 25c. Carl Wilkin was the next in charge of the business.

A new siding was put on the south side of the building in January, 1911, which was burned by the Heywood and Nelson fire in December.

Mr. and Mrs. Guy Rumrill had been managing the hotel and cafe for some time and by 1919, the building had been so antiquated from 30 years of use that the Rumrills made arrangements to build a new hotel directly across the street, on the site of the old courthouse. The hotel was then moved north into the street in order to make room for the new bank building which was to be built on that corner. The Rumrills continued to operate the hotel and cafe while the building was in the street. Sleeping in the street was fashionable those days.

In July of that year, Dr. B. M. Hart purchased the hotel building and had it moved to the lots just south of the M. L. French home (the present Paul Sack home). He had it remodeled and it served as a hospital for several years. The building has since been remodeled and is now known as the Kimbell apartments.

A new brick bank building, costing \$65,000, was erected on the corner by A. R. McConnell and the First National Bank of Onida moved into its new location in April, 1920. The Farmers Bank had been changed to the First National Bank of Onida in January of that year, with Mr. McConnell as president; C. A. Smith, vice president; C. H. Gall, cashier, and Ed S. Pricer, assistant cashier. After the First National Bank closed, the First State Bank purchased the building and moved in on May 4, 1925. Then in June, 1930, the First State Bank and the Onida National Bank merged, using The Onida Bank as its name. J. H. Gropengieser was president, and A. J. Owens, vice president.

The Stringer Building (Kub's Super Valu)

J. M. Stringer erected a building just south of the Onida Bank in the fall of 1919, and he and his son, Francis, opened a general store, called the Quality Store, in February of the following year. They operated this business for several years and then the first part of September, 1928, Francis relinquished his business because of ill health. On October 27, of that year, C. W. Nattress purchased the business and operated it until the fire on December 8, 1936, completely destroyed the building and contents.

The following spring, L. C. Ridinger purchased the lot and ruins, and built a new building in the same location and established a general store and meat department. In 1941, he added a frozen foods locker plant. Various people were employed by Mr. Ridinger through the years, among them were Miss Kathleen Dillon and Mrs. Irene Wargo.

Mr. Ridinger sold his business to Joe Kub in the spring of 1956.



Mr. and Mrs. L. C. Ridinger came to Onida in 1928, from Miller, South Dakota, and rented an apartment in the Hedman home. The following year, their son, David, was born and four years later, in 1933, Jane came to complete the family.

Both David and Jane graduated from Onida High School. David graduated from the School of Mines and Technology in Rapid City and then was employed in a copper mine in Chile, South America, for three years. He returned to the states and entered the army, spending one year at Fort Bliss, Texas, and a year in Alaska. Then he accepted a position with the San Manuel Copper Company, San Manuel, Arizona. On April 1, 1956, he married Patricia Goss, of San Manuel.

Jane was a student at the University of South Dakota for three years. She married James Anderson of Rapid City, on November 8, 1954. They have a daughter, Pamela, and live in Fargo, North Dakota.

The Ridingers purchased the Forrest Eager house in 1930, and have made that their home. Since selling their business in 1956, Mr. and Mrs. Ridinger have been semi-retired.

Original Will Spencer Building (Rivenes Cafe)

In 1911, a building was erected on lot three, block three, original Onida, by Will Spencer, who established the post office in that building during his term as postmaster from 1913 until 1922.

The building has since been a restaurant. It was the Hayes Restaurant for a number of years and then the Gardner Cafe until it was damaged by fire in September, 1930. The building was repaired and in May, of the following year, Mr. and Mrs. Schriever and two daughters, Lizzie and Elsie, opened a cafe. Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Culey managed the cafe from January, 1944, to December, 1945.

Mrs. Emelia Rivenes then purchased the building and operated the cafe for about nine months, after which her son, Orville, took it over.



Original Farmers Bank and Heywood & Nelson Real Estate (Post Office)

One of the first store buildings to be erected in 1883 was the J. R. Lorenzen Store, which was sold to Heywood & Nelson for their first real estate business. Then on July 16, 1908, they moved the building from the east side of the street to their lot just north of Mrs. Howard's home and post office. Heywood & Nelson occupied the back part of the building and the new Farmers Bank was located in the front. The incorporators of the new bank were Will Spencer, cashier, George Coleman, C. J. Johnson, Charles H. Warncke and L. E. Snyder, directors. The first day's deposits on August 15, amounted to \$5,000.

On December 23, 1910, a fire broke out in the building and completely destroyed the old frame building and its two businesses. The bank then opened for business in the old courthouse as temporary headquarters, until a new building could be erected. The fire had destroyed all the bank's fixtures except the safe, which was sent to the factory in Omaha, to be opened. A valuable piano, belonging to Mrs. Spencer, was also burned. Heywood & Nelson rented a small building to carry on their business. In the meantime, they had another building erected on the same lot, and the Farmers Bank moved into



Mrs. Howard, postmistress, standing in the door of her home where the post office was established. **Jonas Olson**, beside the push cart, was the mail carrier.

that building in May, 1911. A. R. McConnell, of Mitchell, purchased the holdings of the bank in November, 1918, and in January, of 1920, the bank was changed over to the First National Bank of Onida. In April of that year, the new bank moved into its brick building on the corner.

On September 1, 1924, the post office was moved into this building from Mrs. Howard's building on the south side. This change gave much more space and with the large vault, provided adequate facilities for the increased business. While Jonas Olson had carried the mail from the train in a little push cart for several years, it was then necessary for him to use a horse and wagon. Ed McLaughlin was postmaster at that time and continued in that capacity until 1935, when Wm. Ruckle took over the postmaster duties. Mr. Ruckle purchased the building in 1949 from George Nelson, who had purchased it from Adele Nelson in 1925, shortly after the building became a post office.

As soon as workmen, carpenters and plumbers could be secured, Mr. Ruckle had a new front installed of glass brick and double paned glass in the windows. The door, which had been located in the center of the front, was changed over to the north side of the front. A wash-room was built in the back part and water and sewer connections were made. The rear of the building was repaired and the back door covered with steel. A new floor furnace was installed and the interior completely redecorated. The box section was also moved from one side of the build-

ing to one-half of the front part, thus letting in more light.



Postmasters

- B. F. Brier, May 2, 1883, located in the Weyand & Brier Store.
- I. K. Clark, 1886-1890, located in the Cole building.
- Eli Blair, 1890-1892.
- M. L. French, 1892-1894, located in his store (Spears & Spears).
- Bell Colton, 1894-1898, located in the Gropengieser building.
- J. H. Gropengieser, 1898-1903, located in his building.
- Mrs. Bertha M. Howard, 1903-1913, first located in her house and then in a building to the north of her house.



Postmaster Wm. E. (Bill) Ruckle in front of the post office in 1957.

Will Spencer, 1913-1922, located in his building (Rivenes Cafe).

Ed McLaughlin, 1922-1935, moved to the present post office building in 1924.

William Ruckle, 1935 to present time.



Star Route Post Offices Between Onida and Kaspar

Conklin, McCamley and Kaspar, which have been discontinued.

Carriers were: Len Haverly, Bert Haverly, George Dillon, Chester Larson, Luther Miller, Henry Kottke, Ray Doyle and W. L. Jordan.



Onida Billiard Parlor

Mr. R. Jenison purchased the George Paddock lot and buildings directly south of Mrs. Howard's home and post office in September, 1909. The building formerly fronting the street was removed and Mr. Jenison replaced it with a new 22 x 48 foot building and then opened the Onida Billiard parlor. In March, of the following year, he installed a new lighting plant.

R. J. and Ira Dougherty purchased the business in December, 1910, and built a 22x30 foot addition on the back. They did not stay in business long, for in October, 1911, they sold to L. S. Howard, ex-sheriff of Sully County. The pool hall closed on July 15, 1918, by order of the state law during the war. Then in September, 1925, Mr. Howard sold his business to T. F. Stevenson and J. A. Johnson.

Sig Severson, Sr., owned and operated the business for many years until his death in 1954, and then it went into the hands of Ben Ahrendt.



Original J. F. Martin Law Office (Variety Store)

On November 1, 1890, J. F. Martin purchased lot eight, block three, original Onida, from Charles H. Agar and established a law office in a small building. Mr. Martin did not stay there long, and was followed in this location by Leo A. Temmey, who came to Sully County in 1884. He brought his real estate business into town which he had established at his homestead five miles east of Onida along the northern border of Blaine Township.

He happened on a trade of Sully County land for a small stock of ladies' ready-to-wear garments and other merchandise, which started him out in a general merchandise store. He later added groceries and in a short time, moved his stock of merchandise to the Corner Store.

The Onida Telephone Company went into the building with Mrs. Maud Sedgewick as the first operator. The telephone office remained there until its new building was completed in 1910 (Bessie Lumley's home).

Mr. and Mrs. S. H. Rumrill, parents of Guy Rumrill, made their home there until Mrs. Maggie McConnachie purchased the building in 1929, and established a coffee shop. She later enlarged and remodeled in order to better serve her customers. Then, after 16 years of service in the coffee shop, she sold out to Veo Lamb, in October, 1945, who established a cafe and leased that business to different operators during the next seven years. Then in November, 1952, Mrs. Lamb disposed of the cafe equipment and established the Variety Store.



Original Stegeman Building (Gambles)

Excavation started in April, 1910, for the new combination drug store and hospital erected by Dr. S. B. Stegeman, of Pierre. The drug store was located in the front part, known as the A. F. Blewitt Drug Company, and the doctor's offices were in the back. The upstairs was made into living quarters and a small hospital. In June, 1911, the drug store was changed to the Hospital Drug Store with R. R. Huffman as pharmacist. Mr. Huffman sold his interest in the drug store to A. C. Porter of Madison, South Dakota, in April, 1917, and Mr. Porter again changed the name to the Porter Drug Store. The Stegemans moved to Gettysburg in 1917.

A circulating library, organized by the Onida Ladies' Club, was located in the drug store in October, 1917, and later moved to the Abbott Drug Store and then to the City Auditor's office.

In November, 1918, the City of Onida took over the first floor of the building as an emergency hospital for influenza patients, which had been cared for previously in the schoolhouse.

The J & J Cafe opened in this build-



Interior of Gambles taken in 1941. Pictured, left to right, Ed Bailey, Grace Kennedy and Les Swanson. Swansons are the present owners.

ing in April, 1920, and then in January, 1925, the Onida Confectionery opened for business. The front part was redecorated and new fixtures purchased, making the confectionery a very attractive place. Weldon Thomas and George Lytle, the proprietors, were mighty proud of their new candy store and ice cream parlor. The large fountain, booths and tables, together with the candy cases filled with the finest candy ever shown in Onida, were very impressive.

In September, of that year, Mr. Thomas purchased the Lytle interest and Mr. Lytle went back to his former profession of teaching. In March of the following year, Thomas sold the confectionery fixtures to E. G. Butler, of Miller.

Ralph Myers of Gettysburg then purchased the building and opened an authorized Gamble Store on July 28, 1934, with Les Swanson as manager. In 1948, Les and his wife, Irene, became co-owners of the store.



Onida Telephone Company (Home of Bessie Lumley)

The Onida Telephone Company completed their line from Blunt to Onida in January, 1900. The phone was located in the Sully County Land and Abstract Company in Onida, and at the Waite Brothers Store in Blunt. By the middle of the year

phones had been installed at the residence of Charles J. Johnson, midway between Blunt and Onida, and at the depot in Blunt.

Business at the Onida Telephone Company was so great by the early fall of 1925, that a new switchboard had to be installed.

On March 10, 1926, the fiftieth birthday anniversary of the telephone was celebrated, according to P. F. Orcutt, manager of the Onida Telephone Company. On March 10, 1876, the first message was transmitted over the telephone. Workers everywhere wore an emblem in the form of a lapel button with a picture of a telephone with the figures "50" superimposed.

Mr. and Mrs. Orcutt sold their privately-owned Onida Telephone Company to the Dakota Central Telephone Company in November, 1926. By September, 1928, the new company had completed rebuilding the entire telephone system in Onida. All old poles and wire were removed from Main street and elsewhere, and cables strung and new leads installed.

The first telephone office was located in the building now occupied by the Variety Store, and the first operator was Mrs. Maud Sedgewick.

About 1910, L. E. Snyder erected a new building, now the home of Bessie Lumley, for the purpose of a telephone office. Following its completion, the telephone office and switchboard was moved into the new building, with Esther Mc-

Clure as operator. In 1915, Hazel Eager took over the switchboard duties, and then Mrs. Chet Larson, followed by Louise Quistad. Miss Alice McGuire and Miss Alice Jordan were also operators. In 1930, the Lumleys moved here from Okobojo and took over the telephone duties. Mrs. Lumley had charge of the switchboard until 1941, when the telephone system changed over to "dial". During those 11 years, Blanche Serbousek, Norma Rumrill, Frances Chamberlain and Frances Brown assisted Mrs. Lumley at the switchboard. Mrs. Lumley has lived in the same building since then.



Original New Theatre Building

(Roxy)

Huffman & Schriever opened the New Theatre on November 1, 1920, which continued to operate under that name until June, 1923, when Al Schriever took over and changed the name to the Onida Theatre. Then Art Owens purchased the business and changed the name to the Crystal Theatre which opened in September, 1927.

Mott Geiser became the manager and opened the week of December 10, 1929, under the name of the Grand Theatre.

The next owner was Harlan Seeley, of De Smet, who remodeled the building, installed new equipment and changed the name to the Roxy Theatre. He managed it a short time and then his brother-in-law, Olney Moe, took over for about three years, followed by another brother-in-law, Eugene Brown, who came in 1946. Then Lloyd Sawinsky managed the theatre for a couple years.

Glenn Woods came here in September, 1950, and Mr. Woods operated the theatre until he sold to Bob Demery.

Coquillettte Furniture Store

(Fosness Cleaners)

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Coquillettte came here in June, 1919, from Miller, as newlyweds, and established a furniture store and undertaking parlor. They had an apartment in the building and Mrs. Coquillettte had a beauty shop, Onida's first beauty operator.

The American Legion organized in this building in September of 1919.

About 1931, the Coquillettes closed out their business and moved to Aurora, Colorado, for her health. The building was vacant for a time and then in the spring of 1935, Mr. and Mrs. Fosness purchased the Kecks' cleaning establishment, which had been sold to Ted McGuire in November, 1934, and were open for business on June 1. They purchased the building from Coquillettte in 1941.



Johnson and Haverly Garage

(John Day Implements Building)

About a year after Frank Johnson and Minor Haverly built the Ford Garage (John Day Implements) in 1915, they sold their hardware business to Frank McGinis and started selling cars. Ford Cole and Henry Chamberlain became partners in this enterprise.

In September, 1925, the business was sold to E. E. Greeves and Harvey Renshaw. The following year, in June, Greeves became the sole owner of the Greeves and Renshaw Ford Garage, having purchased the interest of his partner. The business was then known as the Greeves Motor Company. Then Greeves moved to Gettysburg and R. R. Kambak managed the business. In March, 1930, H. G. Kottke and Kambak purchased the Greeves Motor

Built in 1915 (present John Day Implements building). Pictured, left to right, Frank Johnson, Minor Haverly and P. J. Murphy.



Interior of Johnson & Haverly Ford Garage in 1915. Minor Haverly standing Frank Johnson seated at desk.



Company and changed the name to Onida Motor Sales Company.

It was about that time that the holdings of Johnson and Haverly were divided. Frank Johnson took the garage building, and the brick building became Mr. Haverly's. Mrs. Haverly now owns the property.

Kottke and Kambak operated as partners until the fall of 1942, when Mr. Kottke moved to Salem, Oregon. As soon as the business closed, Connie Hyde rented the building from Frank Johnson. Then Wilber Day moved the I.H.C. business, which he had purchased from Hyde, into that building. Mr. Day took on the Plymouth-DeSoto Agency, and Orval Hortman took over the Ford Agency. When John Day, a nephew of Wilber Day, returned home from service, he became a partner in the business, which was then called The Day Implement. Then in 1948, John became the sole owner of the business and changed the name to John Day Implements.



Original Weyand & Brier Building Courthouse

(Mosiman Hotel)

When the county seat was moved to Onida in 1885, the Weyand and Brier Store on the corner became the courthouse and served as such until the new courthouse was completed in 1912. The Farmers Bank was located temporarily in this courthouse building after the fire of December, 1910.

Mr. and Mrs. Guy Rumrill, who came to Onida from Pierre about 1910, and operated a cafe in the Gustafson building (Frozen Foods) for a couple years, purchased the Onida Hotel and operated a cafe there. Then in July, 1919, they had the hotel moved into the street where it stood until the new hotel was finished. The Rumrills moved into their new hotel building in February, 1920, and operated the hotel business until they sold to Alfred Mosiman in 1946.

The old courthouse building was purchased by Frank Johnson from Guy Rumrill in July, 1919, and moved to a site just east of the present Masonic Hall, where it served as a garage for Hoover & Huffman.

The Rumrills purchased the house just west of the L. C. Ridinger home and lived there until Mr. Rumrill passed away in June, 1950. Mrs. Rumrill kept the home for a few years and just recently sold it to Joe Lamb. She now makes her home with her daughter, Norma (Mrs. Maurice Wika) and family, of De Smet. Her older daughter, Ethel (Mrs. Fred Snyder) lives in Grand Junction, Colorado, and their son, Harry (Bus) is married and lives in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.



Sully County Land & Abstract Company

J. H. Gropengieser and L. E. Snyder organized the Sully County Land & Abstract Company in 1894, in the same building that Gropengieser's daughter, Bess, operates the business at the present

J. H. Gropengieser seated at his desk in the Sully County Land and Abstract office, in about 1910. This desk is still being used by his daughter, Bess, who has continued operation of the business.



time with the able assistance of Agnes Noste. The original partnership dissolved on January 5, 1915, when Mr. Gropengieser became the sole owner of the business.

The building was moved here from Clifton and has been kept in good repair. The vault in the office is made from bricks that were brought here from Fort Sully, and the desk, which is still used in the front office, was bought for \$8.50 at Fort Sully in 1894. The interior of the building has been remodeled and modernized.

This business has continued in its same location for 64 years as the history closes.



Gropengiesers

John H. Gropengieser came to Sully County in the spring of 1883, and located at Clifton, the county seat at that time. He and William C. Walter established

the Sully County Watchman in April of that year and at the close of 1885, Mr. Gropengieser became full owner of the newspaper. When Onida became the county seat, he moved his newspaper here and then purchased a competitive paper, the Onida Journal, and consolidated the two papers in July, 1894, changing the name to the Onida Watchman.

He married Julia A. Brown, daughter of Thomas and Eliza Brown, on April 7, 1889. They had two children, Fred and Bess, who graduated from the Onida High School and then from State College, Brookings, South Dakota. Fred was an electrical engineer and installed Onida's first electric light plant. He married Beulah Martin, but unfortunately it was not possible for him to be with her many years, as he passed away in 1918, during the influenza epidemic. Bess taught school in Onida for several years and was considered one of Onida's most outstanding teachers. She was the first football coach in Onida and later, with the assistance of Will Robinson, now State Historian, started the first football team in Onida.

Mr. Gropengieser was the first man in Sully County to attempt many enterprises. Among those were to seed the yard of his residence property to lawn grass and plant it to trees; to install an electric lighting system and furnace heating plant in his home; to build the electric light plant in Onida; to incorporate and erect a telephone line into Onida in company with L. E. Snyder and L. A. Temmey; to purchase a new automobile in 1906; to install up-to-date metal boxes in the Onida post office in 1889, and to install a radio receiving set in his residence in 1922. He was a con-



First Home of the Onida Watchman in 1889, published by J. H. Gropengieser. George Lacy, seated on his stage wagon in front of the building.



Interior of Little Gem Barber Shop, owned by Severson and Hoover, in 1917. Front barber, Sig Severson, Sr., and back barber, Frank Hoover. Customers—unidentified.

stant booster for Sully County and Onida and was always ready to do his part in the advancement for the benefit of the community. He was a member of the Methodist Church and a charter member of the Masonic and Woodmen Lodges in Onida. Mr. Gropengieser, who passed away suddenly on May 6, 1937, from pulmonary complications, was a highly respected pioneer, editor, postmaster, attorney, realtor and banker of Sully County.

Mrs. Gropengieser was one of Sully County's distinguished pioneers, possessing those characteristics of self-sacrifice, fortitude and spirit of determination that typified the early day settlers. She assisted her husband in publishing the newspaper, while he was postmaster, during the time he held various county offices, and also in the land and abstract business. In 1910 and 1911, she took over the operation of Onida's electric light plant, so that her son Fred could attend college. She still found time for an active interest in community affairs and social events. She was a member of the Methodist Church and sang in the choir. Mrs. Gropengieser passed away on October 17, 1948.



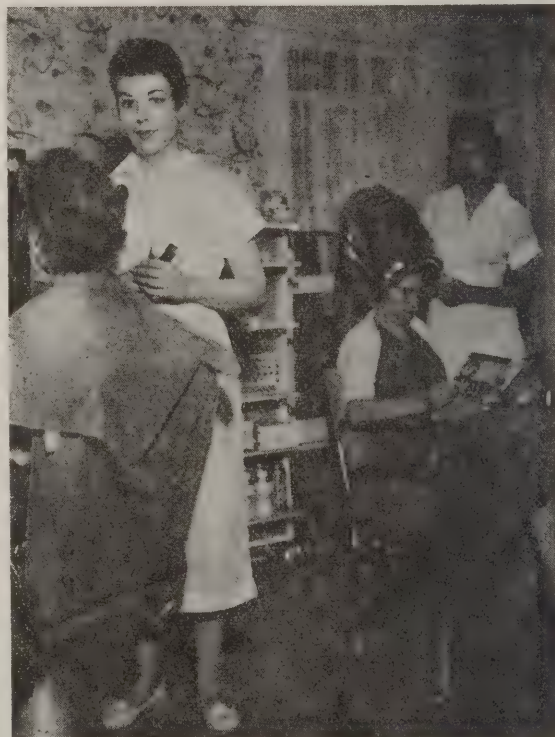
Gropengieser Building

(Vanity Beauty Shoppe)

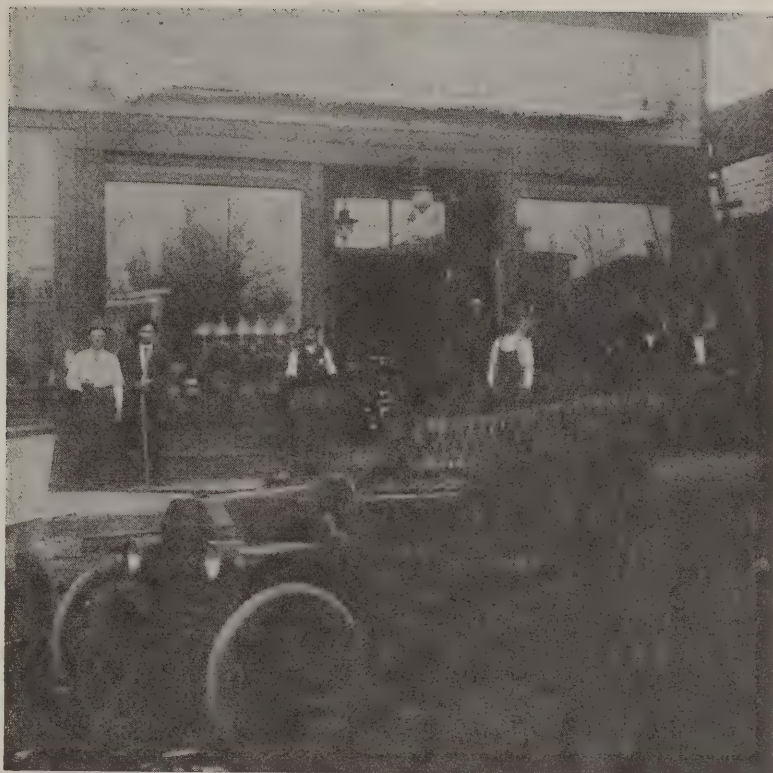
When J. H. Gropengieser purchased the Onida Journal in 1894, he had the building, in which it was housed, moved to lot 13, block one, original Onida, where he established the Onida Watchman. He continued at the helm until 1905, when

he sold the newspaper to the Onida Printing Company. He then spent full time in his abstract office.

Frank Hoover moved his barber equipment into the building in January, 1911, and in 1917, Severson and Hoover became partners in the barber business and called it the Little Gem. Then in 1919, Sig Severson, Sr., bought out Hoov-



Virginia Hilton, owner and operator of the Vanity Beauty Shoppe, and her associate, Eleanor Curley. Customers are Mrs. Charles Miller in the foreground and Mrs. William Trythall, under the drier.



Frank Johnson Hardware in 1909, located on the present Ellis Drug site. Pictured left to right, C. R. Garner, Otis French, Minor Haverly, Frank Johnson, Bert Haverly, Len Haverly, Carl Wilkin, Henry Wilken, unidentified, and Leon French, seated. Foreground—First Ford in Sully county, owned by Mr. and Mrs. Minor Haverly.

er's interest and changed the name to the White Owl Barber Shop. Severson continued to barber in this building until 1938, when he moved over to his own building, the present barber shop.

The next occupant of the building was Elsie Lindell Robinson, who operated a beauty parlor until January, 1944. Then Carl Strand had a Rawleigh Products store for about a year. The next business was a jewelry store operated by Malcom White. He stayed there until 1950, when he went to Gettysburg. Then came an electrical shop operated by a Mr. Wingren.

The next businesses were two jewelry stores, the first jeweler being John Korthis, who was here from July, 1951, to February, 1952, and the last one was Charles Fransen, who left here in May, 1956.

The Vanity Beauty Shoppe is now located in the building.



Johnson & Haverly Hardware

The Johnson Hardware (Frank) was located on the Ellis Drug site. After Minor J. Haverly purchased a half inter-

est in the business in 1910, the partners bought a lot across the street and built the present Haverly brick building, where they continued their hardware business.

On April 1, 1919, they sold their business to Frank C. McGinnis, who operated there about two years. The business was then sold to Smith & Jack. This partnership dissolved in November, 1921. Mr. Smith and his two sons, Purle and Boyd, then operated the hardware store until the father moved to Gettysburg. The business was closed and Purle went into the electric business in Gettysburg and Boyd remained in Onida and became an electrician. The Boyd Smith family lived in the Knox house until they moved to Minneapolis in the late thirties. The W. O. Smith family lived in the house now occupied by the Paul Sack family.

At the close of World War II, Connie Huse came home and opened an electrical appliance and radio shop and called it Connie's Electric. In June, 1949, he sold out to Bob and Paul Ramler, who took over the entire business until July, 1956, when they purchased the John Bauman building and after remodeling, moved their business over to the corner, the present Onida Electric.



Interior of Johnson & Haverly Hardware in new brick building, taken in 1911.
Pictured, left to right, a salesman, Ford Cole and Minor Haverly.

Original Cole Drug Store (White Owl Barber Shop)

The Cole brothers, John and Ira, operated a drug store in Clifton, as well as a livery stable, and when the stable was moved to Onida in 1886, a house was also moved here and located in the same vicinity where the Cole family made their home. They brought their stock of merchandise from their drug store in Clifton and located in a small building on the east side of the street, several doors down from the Weyand and Brier Store.

That same month, T. K. Clark, who owned a 20 x 50 foot store building in Clifton, had his building moved here and set on the lot where the White Owl Barber shop is now located. Mr. Clark, who was postmaster of Clifton, established a grocery and provision store in his building in partnership with Ira Cole, who looked after the business while Mr. Clark took care of his postoffice duties in the same building. They dissolved partnership in December, 1889.

John and Ira Cole had already purchased the Clark building in March, 1889,

and had it converted into a combination general store and drug store, having moved their stock of drugs from their first location, to their new location. The drug department was on the north side of the store and a stock of boots and shoes, dry goods and jewelry on the south side. Mrs. Cole also had a millinery department on the south side. They operated this store until they sold the building to the Telfords in 1920.

The Telford brothers doubled the length of the building and opened a restaurant and pool hall. Then in September, 1926, C. F. Cole, of St. Lawrence, leased the building from the Telfords and moved his two-chair barber shop equipment and pool hall fixtures into it. This business was short-lived, as the Kendall Cafe was established there within a year or two. Harry Kendall did not stay there for long, either, as in May, 1928, Sig Severson purchased the building, had it remodeled and rented it to Dave Gustafson and Frank Frahm for a furniture store and undertaking parlors. Gustafson ran the furniture department and Mr. Frahm conducted his mortuary.



Mr. and Mrs. John Cole
standing in front of their
drug store. This same
building has been remod-
eled and is now the White
Owl Barber Shop.

In September, 1929, S. B. Hammer, who had purchased the Onida Bakery from Schilling, leased the building for his bakery. It was necessary then for Gustafson to move his furniture into his own building, the present Frozen Foods. Mr. Frahm moved his undertaking business into the building back of the Sunshine Bakery, formerly used as a photographer's gallery. Then in 1933, Clarence Chase purchased the bakery, including the equipment.

Prohibition was repealed in 1933, and it was in 1934 that Mr. Severson partitioned a small area in the northwest corner of the bakery to be used as Onida's first liquor store with Harry McGuire as manager. The liquor store remained in that building for about two years and then was moved to its present location in the front part of the City Hall, the original light plant building.

Mr. Chase continued his bakery in this building until 1941, and at that time Mr. Severson moved his White Owl Barber Shop from the Gropengieser building (Vanity Beauty Shoppe) into his own building. Everett Chenoweth, who had barbered in the White Owl Shop since 1927, also moved to the new location, along with Severson.

Original Cole House (The Tavern)

John F. Cole had a large house built for his family in Clifton which he had moved to Onida after they established their drug store here. It was set on the lots north of their drug store and was known as the Cole house for many years. After Mr. Cole passed away on April 29, 1919, Mrs. Cole continued to keep roomers in her home until her health failed and



Mother and Daughter, 20 years separating
their ages, in 1898. Mrs. John Cole, left,
and Maud Cole (Garner) when 16 years old.



Mr. and Mrs. John F. Cole and daughters, Linnie and Maud (Mrs. C. R. Garner) at right.

she went to live with her daughter, Mrs. C. R. Garner.

The house was rented at different times during the next 10 years, and in 1956, it was purchased by Gay Phares, who had it remodeled and then moved his Tavern in from its old location in the Phares building.



Cole History

Mr. and Mrs. John F. Cole and their two daughters, Linnie and Maud, and Ira Cole, a brother of John, left their home in Attumwa, Iowa, and settled in Clifton in March, 1883. The Cole brothers operated a drug store in Clifton until 1886, when the family moved to Onida and established their drug store.

Linnie passed away at the home of her parents on January 29, 1893. Maud attended Onida Grade School and then taught at the Garner School for four terms on a permit when she was 16 years old. Then she took her high school academic work at Huron College and taught school again before she married C. R. Garner in 1904.

A son was born to Mr. and Mrs. John Cole in 1899, named J. Ford. He married

Lois Roach and they live in Aberdeen, Washington. They had a son, who was killed in an auto accident, and now they have a nine-year-old adopted daughter.

Mrs. Cole passed away on April 29, 1946, exactly 27 years to the day following her husband's death.

Ira Cole married Calla Lilly, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Lilly, one of Sully County's first pioneers. Ira and his wife went to Minneapolis to live.

Mrs. Wallace Lilly was an artist and did water color and oil painting. She painted a picture of Onida in 1885, showing the Onida Hotel, the two schoolhouses, the Red Livery Stable and the first wind-mill.



John Adams Company Building (Joe Lamb Building)

Mrs. Alice Adams and son John purchased the Mesick-Stangeland Implement Store in 1917, and added a garage and hardware stock in the front part of the building, and also installed a gasoline pump. They had the Chrysler Agency.

Mr. Adams also installed a new Delco electric light plant that same year.

In the middle twenties, the Onida Construction Company began building a



J. Ford Cole, six weeks old, brother of Maud (Cole) Garner. Carriage is 60 years old.

new repair shop, machinery and oil warehouse and four individual garages for John Adams Company on their property across the alley east of the garage. With the completion of this new building the firm had 15,148 square feet of floor space, and storage room for 75 cars.

About 1936, the business was closed out and J. C. Lomheim acquired the building. Then Orval Hortman rented the building and established the Chevrolet Agency and John Deere business. Incidentally, Hortman sold his first John Deere tractor to Josh J. Hofer, a new 1937 model.

After Mr. Lomheim passed away in 1941, the building became the property of his daughter, Gertrude Snell.

In 1941, H. R. Birdsall rented the shop area from Mr. Hortman for a repair shop. Then in November, 1943, Mr. Hortman moved over to the Corner building that he had purchased from Serbousek, and Mr. Birdsall took over the Chevrolet Agency and operated the entire business. He purchased the building in 1945, and ran the business until April of 1957.



Dunlap Corner (H & H Motors)

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Dunlap came here from Kendall, Wisconsin, about 1900, bringing a supply of lumber with them. Mr. Dunlap built up the corner, which is now H & H Motors. He built a two-story building on the corner, a lumber yard directly south and a large eight-room house still farther south, where the Dun-



Thema, left, and Ethel Dunlap, daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Robert B. Dunlap.

laps lived and Mrs. Dunlap kept roomers. He built just east of his corner building, about where the H & H Quonset is located, which building was used as a picture studio, and another house east of the studio, that was for rent.

In August, 1911, M. L. French and sons, Leon and Otis, purchased a large stock of merchandise from Otto Nelson and opened up for business in the corner building. The stock consisted of everything needed from the cradle to the grave.

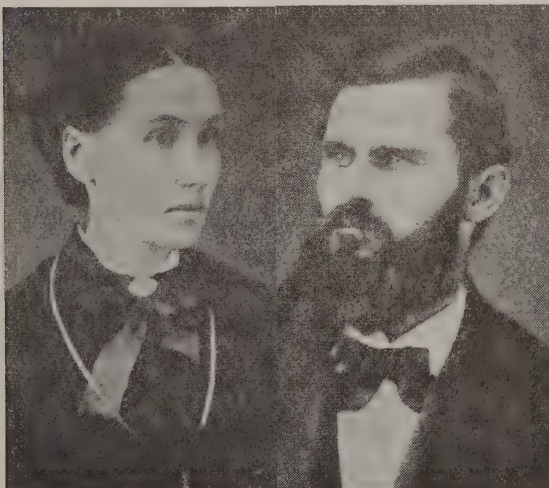
In December, 1909, Dunlap and M. L. French went into the furniture business and called it the Onida Supply Company.

About 1915, the Joseph Serbousek family moved to town and purchased the entire Dunlap holdings. They lived in the large eight-room house. The Dunlap family then returned to their home state of Wisconsin.

The corner building housed numerous businesses, off and on, during the next few years. One of the first was a movie house, then a pool hall run by Guy Rumrill.

New Bakery Opens

For some time the people of Onida realized the need of a bakery. So the first week of September, 1924, Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Basford leased the Serbousek building and remodeled it for use as a bakery. Mr. Basford was an experienced baker and installed the most modern equipment of that time. Onida residents were grateful for this new enterprise and welcomed the Basfords as new residents.



Mr. and Mrs. Robert B. Dunlap

However, the first part of February of the next year, Mr. and Mrs. Basford sold the Sunshine Bakery to their son-in-law, Fred Schilling, and his friend, J. M. Eastman, who changed the name to Onida Bakery.

Mr. and Mrs. Schilling purchased the fixtures of the former Onida Confectionery Store, located in the Stegeman building. The beautiful back bar, fountain booths, tables and candy cases were an added attraction to their bakery. A new Frigid-air cooling system was also installed.

On May 1, 1928, Richard Bartells and Donald Van Epps, of Ft. Pierre, acquired possession of the bakery from Schilling. The following August they leased their equipment to Roy Clark, of Deadwood, and then in September, 1929, S. B. Hammer, of Watertown, purchased the bakery and some new equipment, including a new oven, and leased the Sig Severson building which is now the barber shop.

The building was vacant for some time. Then in 1934, G. E. Davis, of Seneca, purchased the I.H.C. business from Dave Gustafson and opened an implement store, where the bakery had been. Then Connie Hyde purchased the business from Davis in September, 1937, and continued in that location until the fall of 1942,

when he sold the business to Wilber Day. Mr. Day immediately moved the stock of implements down to the Frank Johnson building (John Day Implements).

Then Everett Stewart and Everett Money moved in and operated a Minneapolis-Moline Implement business until 1945, when the partnership dissolved and Mr. Stewart purchased the former French building (Coast-to-Coast) and moved his implement business to that location.

A short time later, Orval Hortman purchased the Serbousek buildings and opened a John Deere and Ford Agency business in the corner building. In the spring of 1948, Mr. Hortman had a new, modern brick building erected, and in October of that year, H & H Motors officially moved into their new home.

The old Serbousek buildings were completely removed. The corner building, that had been the Eastern Star's first home, when they organized in 1920, and also the Masons' meeting place, was sold to the Masons and moved to its present location. The large house was moved to the east part of town and is now the home of Henry Unruh. Then the building that had housed the photographer's studio and the mortuary, was moved north of the new courthouse and is now the Frank Hyde home.

A group of young people in Onida in 1900. Standing, left to right, Maud Cole, Bert Fenton, Neuton Garner, Minor Haverly and Louie Haverly. Seated, left to right, C. R. Garner, Minnie Porter, Belle Colton, Otis French and Albert Toomey.





Big snow plow at work in a cut six miles north of Onida in 1914. The snow in places was 20 feet deep.

"WHAT'S WHAT"

Did you know that in 1926, our county had the largest primary flax market town in the United States, if not the whole world? It was Onida!

Taken from the Onida Watchman in 1926—Did you know that Sully County possesses one of the big damsites that sooner or later will harness the waters of the Old Muddy, and that it will eventually revolutionize manufacturing in South Dakota?

Did you know that Gen. Alfred Sully, after whom our county was named, fought two separate battles with the Indians on Dakota soil?

And did you further know that his men once subsisted for three whole days on a single cracker a day?

Rev. Thomas L. Riggs, last of the little band of Congregational missionaries who came to western South Dakota in the 70's, died at his home at Oahe, Saturday morning, July 6, 1940, at the age of 93. Son of Rev. Stephen Return Riggs, credited with preaching the first sermon in what is now South Dakota, Rev. Riggs spent his life working with and guiding the spiritual life of the Sioux Indian nations of South Dakota. After being ordained in 1872, he was sent to Fort Sully where he began a mission for the Teton Sioux. He was transferred to Oahe, Peoria Bottom, in November, 1874, later becoming superintendent of Congregational Indian missions on the Sioux reservations

west of the Missouri River. He held this position until 1919. Rev. Riggs was the first president of the South Dakota Historical Society. He was born in Lac qui Parle, Minnesota, and educated at Beloit College, Chicago Theological Seminary, Yankton College and the University of South Dakota.



Mr. and Mrs. L. C. Weyand and two children came to Onida in 1883, but did not stay too long. They went to Colorado Springs, Colorado, in the eighties, where he engaged in the mining business and became wealthy. Later the family moved to Chicago.



Looking north on Broadway in 1911, when the present courthouse was under construction.



Main Street in 1927.

Street Scenes



Main Street in 1910
(above). Note irregular
parking of cars.

Celebration day in Onida
(below) during summer
of 1900.





Bicycling on Main Street in 1890.

A busy corner in Onida in 1915.

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☆ ☆
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Looking east from the depot in the early 1900's.



The two-story structure in the background (above) in 1911, now is the present Onida Watchman building. Had this scene been taken in 1958, the line-up of autos might indicate the teen-agers were about to have a "drag" race.

View of Main Street (below), crowded with people. Corner Store on left and Gropengieser's Real Estate on the right.



City Government

When the population of the Village of Onida reached 169, there was considerable talk about incorporating. So on September 28, 1909, Onida held its first election to determine whether or not the majority of the people wished to incorporate as a town. There were 46 votes—31 for, and 15 against. Therefore the vote carried to incorporate, and on October 7, of that year, the Village of Onida became the Incorporated Town of Onida.

Then on October 26, an election was held to determine the town officers. M. A. Hyde was elected trustee for ward one; J. N. Garner, ward two; L. E. Snyder, ward three; Carl Wilkin, marshal; Andrew McFall, city justice; E. E. Brooking, Sr., clerk; Will Spencer, treasurer; E. E. Brooking, Sr., assessor, and Carl Wilkin, road overseer.

H. D. Yeager was named to take a census of Onida to determine if the population was large enough to issue bonds for installing a water-works system, and on July 20, 1910, his report was accepted and it was voted to petition the Town Board for a water system. C. R. Garner was appointed to approach the Board.

Sidewalks were laid in many parts of Onida in the fall of 1910.

Then with a population of 250, another election was held on May 11, 1911, to see if the people wanted to become a city. There were 37 votes cast—35 for, and two against. So Onida organized as a city under the general law of the state.

The City of Onida held its first election June 6, 1911, for the purpose of electing city officers and appointing judges. L. E. Snyder was the first mayor of Onida. Aldermen were J. F. Cole and George Worley, first ward; J. N. Garner and M. J. Haverly, second ward, and L. D. Johnson and T. L. Mitchell, third ward. Other officers were E. E. Brooking, auditor; Will Spencer, treasurer; M. L. French, assessor; F. T. Hartley, city justice; H. C. Spencer, police justice; E. E. Heywood, street commissioner, J. L. Kleinschmidt, chief of police, and J. F. Russ, policeman.

The aldermanic form of government

was adopted at the election and has continued under such form to date without change.

A city election was held on June 27, 1911, voting water-works bonds for \$10,000. The result of the election was 60 yes and four no.

A new artesian well was located on the property across the street north from the Frank Johnson residence, and in July, 1911, the work was completed; however, it only flowed about 20 gallons per minute and had to be pumped. The water was nearly ice cold. The new water tower and tank was completed in August. The mains of the new city water-works were tapped on November 6, to the great satisfaction of the citizens, as heretofore, there had been near a water famine.

Excerpts From Available City Records

1920 — Mayor, E. E. Heywood; auditor, R. L. Howard; council, Trythall, Bauman, Adams, Kleinschmidt, McDeid, Huffman A petition was presented by property owners along Broadway between Court and Pearl Streets asking that curbs and gutters be considered. Petition granted.

1921 — City Justice J. B. Arends; city attorney, M. H. Quimby; city auditor, R. R. Huffman; city treasurer, M. R. Brown.

1922 — The City was to invest \$200.00 in a new fire house A proposed franchise of the Onida Telephone Company was presented and accepted . . . Fanton Brothers' bid of \$155.50 for laying pipe for water mains was offered.

1923 — City Auditor, A. C. Groth.

1924 — Health officer, Dr. B. M. Hart.

1925 — Dog License Ordinance enforced Onida Watchman designated official newspaper City entered in an agreement with White Eagle Oil Co. to buy fuel oil at 9c per gallon.

1926 — The First State Bank of Onida and the Onida National Bank were designated as depositories for the City.

1927 — Bids on fire siren were considered and accepted the City decided to extend light service to include 24-hour service on Sundays The offer of Northern Power and Light Co. of Mobridge of \$10,000 for City light plant was rejected.

1928 — Building permit to W. G. Abbott for a brick and tile business building, block 2, original town approved.

1929 — Jack Reedy appeared on behalf of American Legion Post. The Post offered to construct a suitable sign at entrance to city.

1930 — The light and water committee was directed to see that colored Christmas lights were erected.

1932 — Superintendent of light plant, F. C. Hyde; City library board, Mrs. W. H. Durrstein, Mrs. W. G. Abbott, Mrs. Jesse Williamson, J. J. Bauman and C. J. Crandall.

1933 — Harry McGuire appointed city marshal at a salary of \$60 per month Draying License No. 114 issued to Thomas Doyle was approved.

1934 — Fire chief, J. M. Reedy; assistant chief and secretary treasurer, L. C. Ridinger.

1935 — Notice of Special Election on the 15th day of October, on the question: Shall the City of Onida issue its negotiable general obligation coupon bonds etc. for the purpose of providing for cost of construction of a Municipal Auditorium The canvass of the election—268 votes, 197 for and 71 against Application of Grace Spencer for permission to build an ice house on lot 13 was approved.

1936 — Mayor: Max Rodman.

1937 — M. S. Rivenes was hired as manager of the Municipal Liquor Store The application of Joe Wargo for City Policeman was read. Unanimous roll call approved the appointment.

1938 — Mr. Coacher appeared before the Council requesting that the City Auditorium be equipped for basketball.

1939 — A motion that the City sponsor and construct the proposed sewage disposal plant as a W.P.A. project carried.

1940 — A license was granted to H. C. Lomheim to construct a bowling alley.

1941 — The mayor appointed Bess Gropengieser treasurer and Francis Ryan, city attorney.

1942 — The mayor appointed W. G. Abbott to fill a city auditor vacancy.

1943 — Fred J. Snyder was employed as superintendent of light and water department Vern Palmer was appointed manager of the liquor store.

1944 — Judges for annual election were Mrs. Art Larson, Mrs. John McDeid and Mrs. F. Durrstein.

1945 — Mrs. Carl Kelly appointed as assessor Carl Kelly was hired as plant operator.

1947 — Jack Nelson's application for liquor store manager was accepted Bernice Lemon was appointed city assessor.

1948 — Mayor: M. C. Hyde Marion Pierce was hired as liquor store manager to fill vacancy when Ripley resigned.

1949 — Robert D. Clausen appointed treasurer to fill vacancy when Edwin Johnson resigned.

1950 — Resolution to construct hospital was approved.

1951 — Mayor Reedy appointed E. F. Walter as city assessor F. M. Ryan was appointed city attorney.

1952 — Councilmen elected to office were John Day, L. W. Rappana, Ed Seaman and Carl Kelly.

1953 — The mayor appointed Orville Rivenes Liquor Store manager Leslie Swanson and Ralph Ludwig appeared at a meeting to discuss the matter of needing new pumps for the fire fighting apparatus and the need for financial aid from the City Mrs. K. A. Johnson was appointed superintendent of the hospital.

1954 — A. E. Lewis was appointed city auditor upon the resignation of W. G. Abbott who was appointed manager of the Community Hospital Members of the Hospital Auxiliary appeared to discuss the purchase of a sterilizer for the hospital.

1955 — W. G. Abbott resigned as manager of the hospital. It was then decided to merge the duties of hospital manager with the City Auditor's office, with the City employing part-time assistance for the keeping of books.

1956 — Sybil Plumb was appointed hospital supervisor . . . Roy Hines was appointed Liquor Store manager . . . Larry Martin was appointed city auditor to fill vacancy created by the resignation of A. E. Lewis.

1957 — LaVon Becker was appointed to City Auditor to fill vacancy cre-

ated by Larry Martin's resignation . . . Alice M. Hague was appointed supervisor of Onida Community Hospital . . . Edwin Fanton was appointed liquor store manager to fill vacancy created by resignation of Roy Hines.

1958 — Mayor Hortman appointed Raymond Doyle as justice of peace for City of Onida . . . Leo Lemmel was elected mayor; councilmen were Day, Ramler, Fosness, Schaeffer, Snell and Sutton . . . William Trythall was appointed light and water superintendent when Frank C. Hyde resigned . . . Janice Lemmel was appointed city auditor.

Town Hall

On October 3, 1892, the people of Onida met at the courthouse to consider the question of erecting a town hall. J. M. Porter was elected chairman and J. H. Gropengieser, secretary.

It was decided to organize and incorporate under the state laws, as the Onida Town Hall Association. A board of seven directors was elected: Ed J. Shepherd, H. E. Kimmel, W. N. Meloon, M. L. French, J. N. Garner, Carl Porter and D. Q. Jordan. The president of the association was to be elected by the directors. J. H. Gropengieser was elected secretary and C. W. Holmes, treasurer.

The following committees were appointed: Building—cost of material and specifications—C. H. Agar, M. L. French and H. O'Connor. Articles of Incorporation, W. N. Meloon. By-Laws, A. A. Faust, T. M. Simmons and J. H. Gropengieser.

It was voted to make the capital stock 500 shares at \$5.00 per share. The hall would be located between the Watchman office and the school buildings, present site of the auditorium. The land was donated by C. H. Agar, president of the townsite company.

While skating on the artesian lake one Saturday afternoon in January, 1903, Bessie Gropengieser got on thin ice and took a plunge bath. As the water was shallow, she had no trouble getting out, but was considerably chilled before reaching home.

A Sully County Rustler

Who said people didn't get rich in South Dakota way back in 1883? A gentleman who lived near Okobojo said that he came to Dakota Territory in 1883, with just \$5 in his pocket. Just ten years later, in 1893, he purchased a second 160 acre farm and paid cash for it. He owned a fine drove of cattle and horses, and had money in the bank.

D. W. Hyde leased the Charles H. Agar property and moved in on November 18, 1889. Mr. Agar and his daughter, Miss Jessie, left shortly for Havana, Minnesota, where they stayed for about a year and a half, returning to Onida on April 28, 1892 to remain. Mr. Agar took possession of his farm adjoining town and began farming operations. He finally succeeded in securing an abundant supply of water at his residence at a depth of 80 feet in July of 1894.



Mr. and Mrs. L. E. Snyder and son, Bill, vacationing in the Black Hills about 1910. Mr. Snyder was the first mayor of Onida in 1911.

The Onida Watchman

The Onida Watchman was established in 1883, as the Sully County Watchman and was first published at Clifton, then county seat, by Walter & Gropengieser, owners and founders. It continued to be printed at Clifton until after Onida became the permanent county seat, a period of six years. William C. Walter severed his partnership with J. H. Gropengieser in publishing the Sully County Watchman in January, 1886.

Mr. Gropengieser then decided to move his newspaper to Onida where he could publish a better paper and give more county news by locating in the county seat. The first issue printed and published in Onida was that of June 29, 1889. He then purchased the Onida Journal from Mr. Everts in July, 1894, and consolidated it with the Sully County Watchman. Thereafter the newspaper was called the Onida Watchman.

At that time the Onida Watchman was one of six newspapers in the county, namely: Onida Watchman; Clifton Sun, Clifton, by Frost Brothers; Carson Herald, Carson, by Frost Brothers; Okobojo Times, Okobojo, by Travis & Frankhauser; Norfolk Spy, Norfolk, by Grant Dewell, and another Norfolk paper by Maud Major. Four of the six newspapers ceased to exist and during the first years of the new century the Watchman and the Okobojo Times were the only papers left to serve the people of Sully County.

In April, 1891, the Watchman started using South Dakota made prints which gave the readers the latest State news. This was made possible by forty-three members of the South Dakota Press Association organizing a Publisher's Printing Company of South Dakota, early in 1891, and which were in a position to furnish their own ready prints.

A new 8x12 Challenge-Gordon jobber was added to the Watchman mechanical equipment in December, 1901.

Mr. Gropengieser continued at the helm as editor and publisher until 1905, when the paper was purchased by the Watchman Printing Company, composed of

the following people: C. R. Garner, president; J. F. Cole, vice president; Claude Garner, editor and manager; A. W. Pre-witt, foreman, and J. N. Garner, C. J. Johnson and Maud C. Garner. This company published the paper for only a few months, selling to J. A. Livingston on November 23, 1905. Livingston was editor and proprietor of the Okobojo Times and with this purchase, he became owner of all Sully County newspapers. Mr. Livingston moved the Watchman office to the present Phares building on south Broadway.

On June 23, 1909, Mr. Livingston passed away at the early age of 38. Chronic rheumatism was the primary cause of his death, from which he suffered dating back to 1891, when he was attending school in Onida. The immediate cause of his death was heart trouble.

For several years the Watchman was published by members of the Livingston family and then sold to James E. Temmey, who moved the newspaper to the building presently occupied by Chase's Bakery. Temmey was editor and publisher until the time of his death in 1918.

For over twenty-seven years the Watchman had been printed by foot power. However, in May, 1910, a gasoline engine was installed and "press day" was a pleasure instead of the muscle-tearing, nerve-wracking ordeal of heretofore.

In June of 1919, Carmon L. Bates purchased the Watchman and took possession on June 5th. It was during his management that the Watchman saw its period of greatest expansion and growth. Those were the years of the financial boom following World War I, and a period of financial harvest for the small town weekly.

In 1927, a business deal was completed whereby the Watchman and the Redfield Journal-Observer exchanged owners and editors, Mr. Bates going to Redfield and George J. Zimmer coming to Onida. Mr. Zimmer purchased the building where the Onida National Bank had done business, the Watchman's present location. The newspaper was then pub-

lished by Mr. Zimmer for about five or six years when Mrs. Zimmer assumed ownership. In September, 1942, she leased the newspaper to Phillip Hess, who, with the able assistance of his wife, Una, published the Watchman for eleven years. Mrs. Hess' Day by Day column was always a source of enjoyable reading and it was said by many that the Watchman subscribers would invariably turn to her column before reading any other part of the paper.

Fire Damages Mechanical Department

Fire of undetermined origin caused considerable damage in the mechanical department on January 3, 1944. Clem Noonan discovered the fire and gave the alarm when he noticed smoke pouring from the building at approximately 8:40 p.m. Damage from the actual flames was confined to a space about ten feet square where the wood construction of several imposing stones was destroyed. A cement floor and sheet rock walls and ceiling kept the fire from spreading. Damage from water and smoke extended throughout the building. Through the friendly cooperation of neighbors, the Hipple Printing Company and the State Publishing Company of Pierre, the Watchman's staff was able to put out the paper despite deficiencies in the office.

Watchman Sold to E. L. Thompson

On October 1, 1953, the Watchman was sold, complete with building and equipment, to E. L. Thompson, who had been managing-editor of the Britton (S.D.) Journal for over a year after selling his newspaper at Faith in the early summer of 1952. Though the actual transaction of the ownership took place October 1, it wasn't until November 1, 1953, that the Thompsons moved to Onida and took over active management of the newspaper and commercial printing plant.

The new owner almost immediately undertook a program of equipment replacements and additions, with the goal of making the Watchman one of the best equipped newspaper and commercial printing plants in Central South Dakota. To date a 10x15 Original Heidelberg automatic platen press and a 20x26 Miller Simplex automatic cylinder press, both with production speeds of about 5,000 printed sheets per hour, have been added to the equipment. New also is a 20x26 Baumfolder, which folds, pastes, scores and perforates sheets of paper automatically. Present day automatic printing equipment is far removed from the early-day Washington hand press of the Benjamin Franklin era and later with the foot- and hand-powered presses of the day the Watchman was born.



Laying the Corner

Stone of the new courthouse in 1911. Cole Livery Stable is across the street south with a road show banner posted on the side.

Independence Day Celebrated

Onida experienced a gala day on July 3, 1886, when it celebrated Independence Day for the first time in the history of that little village. Approximately one thousand people attended the celebration, which consisted of a street parade, orations, toasts, recitations, baseball game between the Norfolk and Onida clubs, foot, sack and wheel-barrow races, winding up with the band boys playing for a dance in the court house.

The oration was delivered by Judge M. J. McCann, and the address by the Hon. W. D. Dwyer. Miss Elva Griffith recited the Declaration of Independence. The exercises were interspersed with music by the Cornet Band and the Onida Glee Club.

Water Improvements Made

The townspeople of Onida purchased a windmill from E. A. Wright, of Lincoln township, in the spring of 1889, which added to the attractiveness of the town pump and also its usefulness—but for a very short time. On August 31, of the same year, the high wind demoralized the windmill, and the people once more were reduced to quenching their thirst by a little elbow grease. Within a short time a sixty foot windmill tower was erected at the well, topped off with a new Aeromotor windmill. This was the finest windmill tower in the county.

At an election held on March 5, 1901, it was unanimously voted to bond the village in the sum of \$2,500. to raise funds to sink an artesian well. Several months later, in July to be exact, a 1717-foot artesian well was completed. The pressure was found to be $32\frac{1}{2}$ pounds to the square inch, and the flow 96 gallons per minute, with the temperature ranging around 70 degrees.

Residents of Onida met in the court house on January 14, 1902, and organized the "Onida Water Supply Company" with Benjamin Nilson, president; E. E. Brookings, treasurer, and Claude Garner, secretary, all permanent officers. The object of the organization was to lay pipes from the artesian well to a point south of Hugh Porter's livery barn, thence west to the center of Dakota Avenue, thence south to the south side of Pearl street, between the L. E. Snyder and J. N. Garner residences.

Those living along that route would secure water by connecting with a T joint and piping to their grounds. The organization was to secure pipe and have everything in readiness by the time the frost went out of the ground. The cost of this project would be assessed by those residing along the proposed line. As time went on the water mains were extended to various parts of the village until a good share of the residents had water piped into their homes and business places.

Just as soon as the water mains were laid, residents planted numerous trees and shrubs on the premises and along the streets. Lawns were started and the town beautified in various ways. Many of the houses and buildings received a coat of paint.

In May of 1910, a petition was circulated for a new water system. More than five-eighths of the property owners were very much in favor of a new system and within eighteen months, the mains of a new city water works were tapped.

New Tank Installed in September, 1946

Almost thirty-five years elapsed before the old water tank was torn down and preparations made for installation of a new tank. During that time the battering of the elements and action of rust reduced the tank to a point where it was unsafe and several bad leaks had developed, making it hazardous to maintain a full tank of water, especially during the winter months when large masses of ice would form on the legs and guys of the tower.

The new tank was constructed of 3/8-inch steel, in place of the former one which was 1/4-inch steel. A revolving ladder was placed on the tank, making it easier to inspect and to service. The old tower was in perfect condition, so it was not necessary to replace this part. A new frost box, completely insulated, was installed to cover the riser pipe, and the entire tank, tower and frost box was treated to a new coat of aluminum paint.

Severe Wind Storm Hits Onida

The most terrific wind storm that ever passed over the village of Onida prevailed on July 3, 1893, doing considerable damage to buildings and new farm machinery. The large storage room in the

rear of M. L. French's store was blown down, the front frame awning scattered along the street and the glass store front badly wrecked. A. A. Faust's residence was blown around against his store building and slightly wrecked, while his kitchen was over-turned, breaking almost everything that it contained except three eggs.

The front doors and rear end of I. W. Cole's livery barn were blown to pieces; Rev. DeGolier's kitchen was blown away; the west end of Treasurer Johnson's residence was badly twisted, but still stood, while his stable was blown off his team, without material injury to them, and laid scattered over the prairie beyond recognition, and the top of his new carriage was badly smashed; H. E. Kimmel's large sheep shed was blown over and his coal shed distributed over the prairie, while his fine new windmill was ruined; the top of D. Q. Jordan's coal house was picked up and hurled across the street and went edge-wise into J. R. Garner's residence, doing considerable damage; Thos. Doner's buggy shed was blown off the buggy, leaving it uninjured, and the stable disappeared from off his horse, leaving it without a scratch, to roam on the neighboring wheat field. Some glass was blown out of the north windows of the hotel which allowed the rain to beat in and completely drench the contents. The same occurred at the C. W. Holmes'

residence and others about the village. The windmill at the town well was wrecked and the tower partially blown over. There were a number of minor wrecks, washouts and soakings which occurred around the village. The amount of damage sustained could not be estimated until the insurance adjusters examined the losses. Some of the damaged buildings were adequately covered with insurance, while others were not.

Founder of Onida Passes Away

Charles H. Agar died on January 14, 1902, from complications of pneumonia and pleurisy.

He was born in England, April 30, 1840, and came to America with his parents when he was about seven years old. The Agars located in the State of New York, possibly Oneida, where Charles lived until he came here early in 1883, and located the townsite of Onida.

Mr. Agar was the first treasurer of Sully County, appointed in May, 1883, when the county was organized, and served until 1885. He also held township and school offices, and was prominent in politics.

He left a daughter, Mrs. Jessie Hyde, and other relatives. His wife and one daughter, Miss Minnie, preceded him to the grave.



H. W. Ruckle, with his team and wagon, in front of the Snyder home which is now known as Dr. Hedman's.

Twenty-five Years of Progress

Onida was considered by its citizens to be a good town in 1910, but those same citizens predicted that in the following year of 1911, it would be a much better town—in fact so far advanced that they would not be able to realize it to be the same place.

It was hard to believe, but nevertheless true, that the following improvements were made within a year's time, besides those previously made: A \$75,000 court house, an electric light and power plant, cement sidewalks, water works, chemical engine and fire department, a telephone system, a railroad with all the benefits that accrued from same, grain elevators and a farming territory to draw from. Already Onida had two large general stores, one hardware store, two drug stores (one with hospital in connection), three strong banks, livery barn, one garage and another to be erected, a three chair barber shop, two restaurants, a butcher shop, pool hall, a newspaper, a grist mill, two blacksmith shops, two doctors, five lawyers, seven real estate offices and other businesses too numerous to mention.

And this was only a start. The surrounding country filled up with progressive farmers and each year the county produced more wealth than in the year preceding.

The Railroad Comes

After a patient wait for nearly thirty years, the ears of Onida citizens were greeted on June 22, 1910, by the racuous whistle of a railroad locomotive. How sweet it sounded could only be told by those old-timers who settled here in the early eighties with the fond hope that Onida would get a railroad in a comparatively short time. But this short time passed into years and still they waited.

Those young men whose hopes were highest a generation ago were now silvered with age and their places were taken by a rising generation, who little realized how much they owed to those old pioneers who settled here on the lonesome prairie thirty years before.

It was really August 1 when the first passenger train came to Onida, and also the first one to run through the county. It was composed of two day coaches and one combination passenger and baggage car.

Every one who could possibly get away was at the depot to ride as far as Gettysburg. A total of seventy-two passengers boarded the train; among them were Mr. and Mrs. C. R. Garner and their daughter Audrey. When the train pulled away from the depot and slowly glided away to the north through Will Spencer's cornfield, those who remained



Mr. and Mrs. C. R. Garner and daughter, Audrey, standing on rear platform of first train to arrive in Onida. The two men at the right are unidentified.

at home could hear the passengers cheering and singing like a bunch of kids at a Sunday school picnic.

When the train pulled into Agar the passengers found that the citizens of that enterprising little town had decorated every building with American flags and practically the entire population was at the depot to see the train.

The passengers got off the train at Gettysburg and had dinner, after which they milled around town explaining to the natives of that little city what an advantage it was to them to be connected by rail with a town such as Onida. Early in the afternoon the Onidans boarded the train and returned home, everyone proud and happy that he had taken a ride on the first train that ever went through the division.

The Lights Go On

At 5:30 o'clock on October 19, 1910, a new epoch was written in the history of Onida by turning on the "juice" from the electric light plant built by Fred Gropengieser. Upon his death in 1918, the plant was sold to the City of Onida. The lighting service was excellent, and as all machinery and equipment was absolutely new and installed by experienced electricians, there was no reason why the excellence of the system would not maintain its standard for all time. The power was turned off at eleven o'clock in the evening, but Manager Gropengieser informed Onida citizens that a powerful storage battery would be connected to the line so that lights could be had at any time of the night or day.

New Court House Completed

Confusion and happiness reigned among the county officers on March 25 and 26, in 1912, it being the occasion of their removal from the old building, which had for twenty five years served as a court house, into the handsome new building shown above.

There was really a vast difference between the neat, up-to-date offices in the new building and the crowded quarters which had served for so many years. Every office had the latest improvements in office fixtures, including vaults, files and telephones. The county officers had a perfect right to be pleased with their handsome new quarters.

The new court house was dedicated on April 9, 1912, by the legal fraternity.

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A stage and mail route from Blunt to LeBeau, by way of Onida, was established in the early summer of 1883.

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During the lush, languid days of Indian Summer in August, 1886, W. D. Dwyer, Frank Brigham, Dr. E. J. Loughlen, Charlie Holmes, Frank Brier, L. C. Weyand and Lon Funston enjoyed a leisurely outing along the banks of the Big Muddy, picking plums, dining with the Indians at Fort Bennet and hunting.

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The Misses Emma Nelson and H. Mabel Finch returned home about the middle of October, 1904, from their visit to the World's Fair in St. Louis, Mo., Chicago and other scenic spots.



Sully County's new courthouse nearing completion. In the background, right, is what was then known as the Robert Dunlap Corner, where he constructed three buildings — two-story store, lumber yard and rooming house. It is the present location of H & H Motors.

Gropengieser Home Burns

On the afternoon of February 7, 1915, the residents of Onida were startled by hearing the dread cry of "Fire" and rushing to the street, saw flames bursting from the Gropengieser residence. The hose cart was hurried there as soon as possible, but before the water could be turned on every room on both floors was in flames. The fire was caused by a leak in the gasoline range, and the entire house had filled with gas which, when ignited, spread instantly to all parts of the house and made it impossible to save anything. Those first on the scene managed to take out the piano, but it had already been ruined by the flames.

Heroic work was done by both citizens and members of the department. At one time flames burst from almost every part of the house and it appeared as if nothing could prevent it from burning to the ground. However, under the constant drenching by two heavy streams of water, the fire gradually became controlled, and although both house and furniture was a total loss, a large part of the outer shell of the structure was kept from burning and thus saved all the shade trees on the lawn and also preserved the furnace, storage batteries and coal in the basement, although it meant quite an expense to tear down the ruins before another building could be erected.

Gasoline had been leaking from the stove all morning and when Mrs. Gropengieser started to light it to prepare dinner, the gas throughout the house ignited at once. It was almost a miracle that she escaped without injury. Mr. Gropengieser ran upstairs for something and the flames

followed him up the stairway so quickly that he was compelled to jump out of a window on the second floor.

The building was one of the finest and most expensive houses in town and, although the loss was partially covered by insurance, the loss in keepsakes, heirlooms and other personal articles was one that money could not replace. No clothes of any kind were saved by any member of the family except those they wore at the time.

Mr. Gropengieser rented the L. D. Johnson cottage and the family resided there until spring when plans were made to rebuild.

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Mrs. Bernice (Hardwick) Lincoln Receives Radio Bravery Award

The Jimmy Fiddler award for courageous action, announced each Sunday evening on his radio program from Hollywood during 1950, was awarded to Mrs. Bernice (Hardwick) Lincoln of Madison, Wis., daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Earl Hardwick.

Mrs. Lincoln received a Bulova watch with the inscription on the back, "To Bernice Lincoln—from Jimmy Fiddler. May 25, 1950."

Each week Mr. Fiddler invited some noted Hollywood celebrity to nominate the person who had performed an outstanding act of courage during the week. Miss Jane Russell, glamorous movie star, was asked for her selection the first week in May, and she unhesitatingly named Mrs. Lincoln, an expectant mother, for her unselfish bravery in rescuing a three-year-old boy from drowning in the icy waters of Lake Monona in Madison.

Only Portions of the outside walls remained standing when flames consumed home and contents belonging to J. H. Gropengieser.



All-Star Wedding A Smash Success

There was standing room only at the city auditorium the night of June 27, 1952, when the Onida Fire Department presented that atomic hit, "All-Star Wedding."

The bride, Miss Lotta Crust, portrayed by Vic Bosma, wore a floor-length dress of white with a finger-tip veil, and carried a bouquet of hollyhocks. The groom, I. Will Chisel, Paul Kellogg, wore the conventional business suit with tie. Officiating was the parson, Les Swanson.

Attendants were the bridesmaid, Wilard Stahl, and best man, Howard Schultz. As flower girls, Orville Davis and Dick Knodel, scattered popcorn, and Buck Crabtree acted as ring bearer.

Francis Ryan, as the butler, announced the guests who ranged from baby brother, Bob Ramler, with his black mammy, Aunt Jemima, Tom Donahue, to President Truman and Mrs. Truman, Connie Hyde and Charles Fransen.

The guests were entertained as they waited for the wedding party, by Ethel Smith, the pianist, D. J. Martin; Jack Benny, his violin, and Rochester, Harold West and Glenn Meadows; Margaret Truman, Charles Hoover; Kate Smith, J. M. Reedy; Gene Autry, Wendell West; Frank Sinatra, Frank Walsh; Fred Astaire, Roy Sweeney; Andrews Sisters, Charles Nelson, L. C. Ridinger and Bob Mikkelsen; Amos 'n' Andy, Russell Hoover and Robert Eldridge; Carmen Miranda, "Smokey" Ripley; Dick Contino and his accordion, Lee Rappana; Rudy Valie, Tim Hull; and Old Black Joe, Leo Lemmel.

Other guests presented were the mother of the bride and her twin sons, Everett Chenoweth and Clair Kennedy; Ma and Pa Kettle, John Day and Charlie Danks; Miss Knowall, the nosy old maid, Vern Palmer; Ima Jilt, former sweetheart

of the groom, Buck Birdsall; Digger O'Dell, Ray Doyle; Miss America, Ed Cru-thoff; rich aunt and uncle, Ralph Ludwig and Ray Bartels, and their two bobby-soxers, Alfred Mosiman and Marvin Kennedy; Mae West, Ralph Becker; the peddler, Howard Wargo, and the tramp, Richard Groseclose.

This classic was a huge success and the most talked of wedding of the year.

Mrs. Marion Pierce Foils Hold-up Attempt

Quick thinking and courageous action on the part of Mrs. Marion Pierce, wife of the local manager of the municipal liquor store, foiled a hold-up attempt just as the Pierces were closing up the night of August 27, 1949. The liquor store had been locked while the day's proceeds were tallied and placed in the office safe. Their attention was attracted by a rattling at the front of the building, and thinking it was a late customer, they opened the door. As Mrs. Pierce swung open the door it placed her in a position to the right side and slightly in the rear of the would-be robber, who advanced to the counter, where he pulled a gun demanding the money that was on hand. Mrs. Pierce, acting quickly, grabbed the gun with both hands. A short scuffle followed, but the amateur criminal was unable to break her hold on the gun. He then left the building and the Pierces, thankful to have averted the robbery, and fearful that accomplices might be lurking nearby, were only too happy to see the last of him.

Maynard Knox won three titles at the South Dakota state trapshoot held in Spearfish the week of June 15, 1955. He captured the state singles, the state handicap, and the state champion of zone champion trophies.



Back in 1910, six young people, dressed in their best, went for an auto ride on Easter Sunday afternoon. In the course of their jaunt in the country, they came upon a pitched tent which was unoccupied at the time. Thinking this would be a good place to take a picture, the group got out and posed with a water jug found inside the tent.

Main Street Business Today

Seventy-five years of progress on Broadway—commonly known as Main street—has resulted in many improvements and many new faces.

The busy corner on North Main, on the west side of the street, is now the Red Owl Store, owned and operated by Walter Becker, who purchased the business in March, 1955. He and his wife, Phyllis, and six children moved here from Turton, South Dakota, and purchased the Ralph Ludwig home where they now live. Diane, the oldest daughter, is attending Presentation College in Aberdeen. Julie and John are in high school, and Mary Margie and Tommy, are in the grades. Mr. Becker's employees include: Maynard Rilling, Mae Wakefield, Kathleen Donahue, John Kimbell, John Becker and Julie Becker.



The next business place to the south is the Blue Room operated by Dick Mehrer, originally from Harrold, South Dakota. Mr. and Mrs. Mehrer and their five children live in a large trailer house. An older daughter, Susan, (Mrs. Larry Carroll) lives in Ft. Pierre.



Schaeffer's Hardware is owned and operated by John Schaeffer. Miss Janice Brooking is employed during her college vacations.



The Onida Produce is owned and operated by Donald Currier. He and his wife, Edna, have four children: Mrs. Donald Lee of East St. Louis, Illinois; Carol, a senior at Sunshine Bible Academy, Miller, and Brenda and Susan in grade school at Onida. Rev. Elias Hofer is employed by Mr. Currier.



Hardwick's Store is one of Onida's first general merchandise businesses and has remained in the family since it was established by Mrs. Hardwick's father, M. B. Knight, in 1910.

The Onida Watchman was purchased by E. L. "Stub" Thompson from Minnie Zimmer in November, 1953. Stub and his wife, Helene and son Jim, who is a sophomore in Onida High School, live in the Watchman apartment. The Watchman employs Phillip "Bud" Hess, Mrs. Sheldon Bright, and Herbert Tebay, who is on leave in the military service.



C. R. Garner Real Estate is the second oldest business on Main street and is still run by Mr. Garner. The insurance business was sold to Bob Koenig in 1954, who came to Onida in 1948, and taught and coached in the local school for five years. Bob and Jean have two boys, Bobby and Mark. Mrs. Ted Baker is employed as secretary at the Garner Agency.



Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Chase own and operate Chase's Bakery. They employ Mrs. Evelyn Edge, Mrs. Walter Ripley, Mrs. Darold Kuhns, Mrs. Martin McGuire, Maxine Erp and Mrs. Roy Hines.



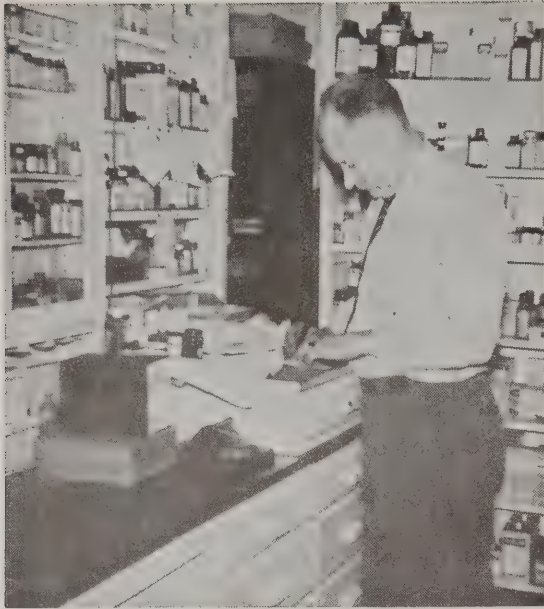
Marshall-Wells Store is owned by Mr. and Mrs. Ed Cruthoff, who came to Onida from Mitchell in 1939. Ed was in partnership with Everett Stewart and in 1953 became the sole owner of the business. Ed and Pat have two daughters, Penny, a junior, at Huron College, and Patty, a senior in Onida High School.



Spears & Spears is another one of the old, established land businesses of Onida. Mrs. Marvin Kennedy is employed as secretary.



Ellis Drug is owned and operated by H. W. Ellis, formerly of Highmore, South Dakota, who purchased the business from Pat Abbott in November, 1941. Mr. Ellis employs Mrs. Icy Jarnagin, Mrs. Janet Chamberlain and Mr. Abbott. Herschel



H. W. Ellis, preparing a prescription at his drug store.

and his wife, Ruth, purchased the former W. W. Warner house, where they live with their two children, Janet, a freshman in high school and Charles, a sixth grader. Mr. Ellis' hobbies are hunting, fishing and boating.



Onida Electric is owned by Bob and Paul Ramler, who came to Onida from the state of Minnesota. They employ John Silbaugh and Tony Lieser. Bob and Gladys have two children, Judy and Donald, and Paul and his wife Ethel also have two children, Randy and Ricky.



The Onida Bank is an independent bank owned by 18 local stockholders. Directors are Luther Nelson, president; Chas. Lee Hyde and Bess Gropengieser, vice presidents; A. J. Owens, Sr., cashier, and Mrs. Ralph Becker and A. J. Owens, Jr., assistant cashiers. Mr. Owens, Sr., has been the managing officer since 1925.



Kub's U-Save grocery store is owned by Joe Kub, formerly of Ipswich. He and his wife, Jenny, have two children, Marie, a junior in high school, and Joe, Jr., in the grades. The Kub family lives in an apartment in the Onida Frozen Foods building.

Rivenes Cafe is owned by Orville Rivenes, who purchased the business from his mother, Mrs. Emelia Rivenes, in September, 1946. Employees are Anne McBride, Vivian Ripley, Christina Wipf, Carol Davis and Norma Duncan. Orville and Opal Rivenes have three daughters, Betty, (Mrs. Kent Hyde), of Huron; Karen (Mrs. Laurence Byrum) rural Onida, and Dany, age four.



The post office building is owned by William Ruckle, present postmaster. His wife, Luella, has been a regular clerk since December, 1937. Preston Starbuck has also been a regular clerk since 1946, and his wife, Mildred, a sub-clerk since that time. Carriers are Maynard Knox, since February 2, 1925, A. E. Lewis, from 1935 until he retired in 1956, and Albin Stahl since 1956. Sub-carriers are Everett Chenoweth on Route two since 1932, and Darwin Stewart, who replaced his father, Everett Stewart, Route one. Bob Demery is a part-time employee.



The Billiard Parlor is operated by H. R. Birdsall, who leases the business from the Ben Ahrendts.



Veo's Variety is owned and operated by Mrs. Tony Lamb. Mrs. Donald Tenant is employed there. The Lambs have four children; Dolores (Mrs. Howard Hanson) Joe, John and Charles.



The Gamble Store is owned and operated by Mr. and Mrs. Les Swanson. Les and Irene have two boys, Gary and Ricky, both attending Onida High School. The Swansons live in the apartment above their store.



The Roxy Theatre was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. Bob Demery from Glenn Woods in July, 1956. This was one of the first theatres in this area to have Cinemascope. Mr. Demery came to Onida in 1955 from Kenel, South Dakota, to teach in the high school. Mrs. Demery is the former Margaret Day, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wilber Day. Bob and Margaret have four children, Mary Ellen, Kathie Sue, Bobby and Michael.

Fosness Cleaners is owned and operated by Mr. and Mrs. Louis Fosness, who purchased the business in May, 1935. They employ Mrs. Ferne Currier, Miss Laurel Chattick and Mrs. Saloma Palmer. Mr. and Mrs. Fosness came to Sully County in 1927. They have one daughter, Virginia, (Mrs. Charles Cook).

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Stahl's Service Station was purchased by Francis Stahl from Dale Uhl in April, 1957. Mr. Stahl employs Rodney Becker.

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Peavey Lumber Yards has been managed by Wilbur Hofer since September, 1957. Wilbur and his wife, Eileen, have two children, Terry and Scotty.

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The Mosiman Hotel was purchased by Alfred Mosiman in 1946. He and his wife, Margaret, have four boys, Rodney, Corwin, Monte and Larry. Mrs. Pat Malloy is employed at the hotel.

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The Sully County Land & Abstract Company, which was originated by J. H. Gropengieser 64 years ago, is run by his daughter, Bess, and Agnes Noste. Mrs. Everett Chenoweth is a part-time employee.

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Vanity Beauty Shoppe is owned by Mrs. Virginia Hilton. Miss Eleanor Curley is employed as a beauty operator. Mrs. Hilton's son, Craig, is a freshman in high school.

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White Owl Barber Shop is owned and operated by Everett Chenoweth. Everett and Irene have one son, Marvin, a freshman in high school.

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The Evergreen Tavern has been managed by Willis Green since May, 1956. He and his wife, Lucille, moved to Onida from a farm in Sully County.

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H & H Motors was purchased by John Sutton and Elliott Byrum from O. C. Hortman in 1957. They employ Wen-

dell West, Larry Mayes, Harold Wagner, Lawrence Ripley, Herman Menenger, Lloyd Rilling, Willard Stoll and Lyle Chase. Elliott and Lois Byrum have two children, Kathy and Karla.

Business Here and There

Ray's Repair Shop is owned by Ray Bartels, who had farmed east of Onida and then moved to town in 1946, following his return from military service. He purchased the business in April, of that year from Fred Genzel. Ray and Lois have three children, Ronald, a freshman in high school and Wanda and Hugh, in the grades.

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Lamb's Store was established by Tony Lamb in 1937 and has been managed by his daughter, Dolores (Mrs. Howard Hanson) since 1952. Employees are Mrs. Florence Theuer and Mrs. Russell Hyde. The Hansons have two children, Virginia and Fred.

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Lamb's Chevrolet was also started by Tony Lamb in 1937, and in 1952, he turned the management over to his son, Joe. Originally a service station, the business has branched out considerably. In April of 1957, Joe Lamb purchased the Chevrolet Agency from H. R. Birdsall and in 1958 built a new garage east of Lamb's Store. Employees are John Lamb, Chester Hiller, Mary Hiller, Howard Hanson, Harold Davis, Ralph Shoup, Roy Hiller and Kenneth Brunmeier. Joe and his wife, Dorothy, formerly Dorothy Hyde, have four children, Daniel, and Nancy in the grades and James and Jeff at home. Mr. and Mrs. John Lamb have two children, Denise and Diana.

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The Texaco Station was purchased by Frank Erp in 1934. In 1955 the station burned to the ground and then rebuilt. Employees are Emel Genzler and Elton Erp. Mr. and Mrs. Erp have six children, Maxine, Elton and Darlene in high school and Eva, Mary and Wylla in the grades.

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Onida Frozen Foods is owned by Pete Unruh, who purchased the business in May, 1956. He and his wife, Susie,

have four children, Jake, who is a farmer in Sully County, Elsie (Mrs. Vern Genzler; Edna (Mrs. Clayton Cunningham) and Andy.



Sully County Co-Op Association was formed in 1921 and is made up of 250 stockholders. Art Johnson has been manager of the elevator since 1935. Harvey Main and Burl Corcoran are also employed by the cooperative.

Mr. Johnson came to Onida in 1927, from Randolia, Iowa, and the following year he started working for the Sully County Co-op Association. In June of 1939 he married Miss Julia Birkland of Beresford, South Dakota, who had been teaching in the Onida Grade School. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson purchased the Frank Hayes house and have made that their home. They have two daughters, Ellen and Dorothy, high school students.



Oahe Grain Corporation was organized in 1954 with the following board of directors: Gordon Day, president; John Sutton, Wilber Day, Josh Hofer, Elton Eller. Bob Clausen is secretary. Clinton Dunlap has been manager since August, 1956. Mr. and Mrs. Clinton Dunlap came from Rutland, North Dakota. They have three children, Dennis and Carol in high school and Neil in grade school. Employees are Larry Rupkalvis, Bill Williams, Lorraine Yeager, and Ed Seaman, manager of the oil department.

Shorty's Radiator Shop is owned and operated by Henry Boren, who has been in business since September of 1956, coming here from Goodlett, Texas. He and his wife, Elma, have five children, Leon, Edward, James, Billy and Judy Ann.



Hoover Livestock and Sales is owned and operated by Charles and Russell Hoover, who established this business in 1955. The Hoover brothers buy for Armour and Company of Huron.

Business on the "Strip"

Stewart and Sons was established by Everett Stewart in 1953. Since his death in 1956, the business has been managed by his wife, Pauline, and oldest son, Darwin. Employees are Van Stewart, Jack Schall, Carl Haverly, A. E. Lewis and Dave Merrill. Darwin and his wife, Collette, have two daughters.



Baxter Chemicals was established by Earl Baxter in 1954.

A crew of workmen arrived here in October, 1907, to construct cement walks. The first cement sidewalk was in front of the Watchman office, then located in the Phares building, north of the courthouse then the entire east side of Main street.

The Everett Stewart family, taken in front of their new business place after it was completed in 1953. Pictured, left to right, Judy (now Mrs. Jack Schall); Mrs. (Pauline) Stewart and daughter, Sandra; Everett Stewart and sons, Darwin and Van.



The Professional Men

Onida's First Doctor

Onida was very fortunate in having Dr. E. J. Laughlin come out here from the East in 1883. He was Onida's first doctor; however, people were so healthy and so few at that time, that it was necessary for him to move elsewhere to seek a livelihood. He chose to go to Blunt.

Another Doctor Arrives

Dr. and Mrs. H. G. Pease also came to Sully County in the very early days. They first located near Okobojo and later moved to Onida. His office was located in his home, the present Reuben Niehoff site. Dr. and Mrs. Pease celebrated their 53rd Wedding Anniversary in November, 1901, and were the oldest married couple living in the county at that time. They left here in October, 1903, to make their home at Placer, Oregon. They were residents of Onida for 14 years and of Sully County for nearly 20 years. The reason they left here was to benefit Mrs. Pease's health.



Dr. P. Kendall, physician and surgeon, arrived in Onida the first part of February, 1904, from Salem, South Dakota. He was appointed superintendent of the Sully Board of Health in March of that year.

The Kendall family lived in the Foster house on the site where the Jake Mosiman house is located. The doctor established his office in his home. Their son, Harry, operated a restaurant in several locations in Onida. He married Mrs. Norfolk and later moved to Huron.

Dr. Kendall passed away on May 6, 1911, from a heart attack at the age of 64 years. Mrs. Kendall then went back to Salem to live with her daughter. When she passed away her body was brought back here for burial.

Another Doctor—Another Drug Store

Dr. and Mrs. Stegeman came here from Pierre. Mrs. Stegeman had been employed in the State House. They had a two story building erected on south Main

(Gambles) and used the front part as a drug store and the back portion as doctor's offices. The upstairs was divided into hospital quarters in front and living quarters in the back. During the flu epidemic in 1918, the hospital rooms were always filled and several nurses were employed. The Stegemans moved to Gettysburg in the early twenties.

DR. HART

Onida Had A Third Doctor

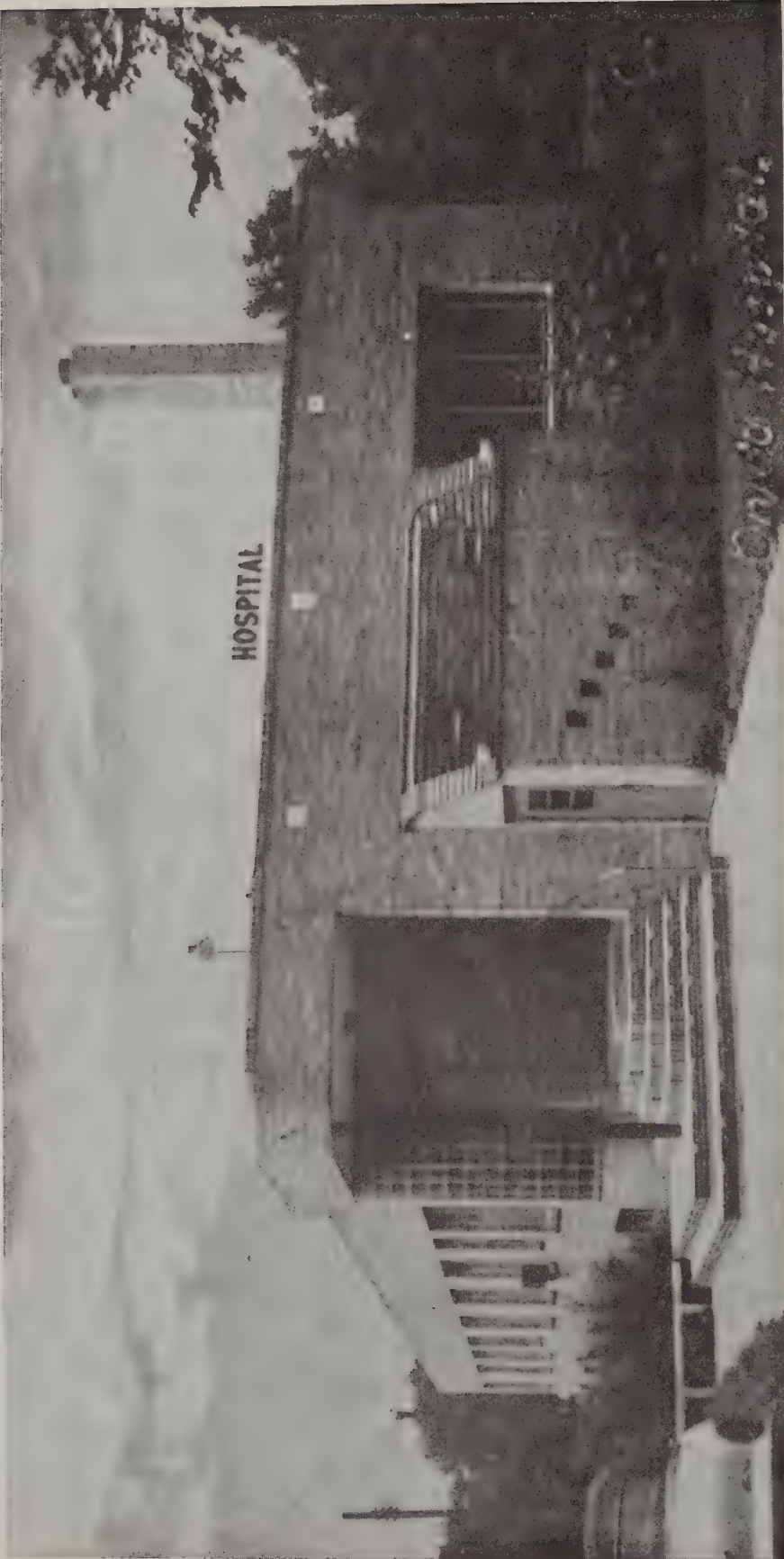
Dr. B. M. Hart, who had practiced in Blunt for about five years made arrangements in September, 1910, to come to Onida and locate in the offices over the M. B. Knight Store, where he received patients several days each week. But it wasn't until March, 1917, that Dr. Hart and his family moved to Onida and located in the Adams residence.

Dr. Hart purchased the old Onida Hotel and had it moved to its present location, now the Kimbell Apartments, to be used as a hospital. In July, 1932, Dr. Hart had the hospital entirely remodeled, rearranged and enlarged.

About that time Dr. and Mrs. F. R. Zeiss came here from Chicago, and the two doctors went into partnership. This lasted about five years and in 1937, the Zeiss family returned to Chicago, where Dr. Zeiss became a bone specialist.

The Dr. Hart family moved into the Wilber Day home. His first wife, Edna, passed away and later he married Jeanette, who had been supervisor of the Kahler and Colonial hospitals in Rochester, Minnesota, for ten years just previous to her marriage.

It was necessary to close the Onida Hospital in the fall of 1939, because of lack of funds. However, the following May, Mrs. A. O'Neil, a registered nurse, leased the hospital from Dr. and Mrs. Hart. Mrs. O'Neil announced that to the first baby born in the hospital after June 1, 1940, she would give a \$5 bonus. Delvin Pearson, from north of Agar, was that first baby.



The Onida Community Hospital, Built In 1953

The Harts left here in 1944, to make their home in Long Beach, California. In addition to practicing his profession, Dr. Hart was very active in civic and community affairs, and in 1940, both he and Mrs. Hart were honored at the South Dakota State Medical Association Convention. The Doctor was chosen president of that organization for 1941, and Mrs. Hart was elected second vice president of the women's auxiliary group.

Dr. Hart passed away on January 25, 1957, at Long Beach, at the age of 80. Mrs. Hart is living in Long Beach with her daughter, Beverly, a trained nurse. Mrs. Hart's son, Maynard, is a doctor, living in Texas.

Swedish Masseur

Dr. and Mrs. Oscar Hedman came here the first week in January, 1925, from Colton, South Dakota. They lived in Mrs. John Cole's house on Main Street, where the Doctor gave Swedish Masseur treatments. In 1931, they purchased the Big Brick House, known as the Snyder house where he lives. Mrs. Hedman has been ill and stays at the Douglas Nursing Home in Pierre.

Dr. Hedman is a survivor of the sinking Titanic in 1912. He was on his first trip to America at that time. He and Mrs. Hedman made a trip back to Sweden for a visit several years ago.

Dr. Embree

Dr. and Mrs. Embree and their two children came here in the middle forties. Dr. Embree established his office in the back of the bank building. They purchased the house that Frank Hoover built, located on the lots where the present Gordon Day home is situated. When the Embrees left here they had their house moved to Pierre where it now sits on Capitol Avenue.

Dr. Rimsa

Dr. and Doctora Alfreds Rimsa arrived in Onida in September, 1950, from Sioux Falls where they had been interning at the Sioux Valley Hospital for six months in order to meet all requirements to practice in the State of South Dakota. Dr. and Mrs. Rimsa are graduates of the University of Latvia and Dr. Rimsa a post-graduate with four years training at Munich, Germany. They were assigned to

this community for four years by the State Board of Health. The Rimsas went to Los Angeles, California, where Dr. Rimsa specialized in heart diseases.

New Hospital Voted Upon

On August 15, 1950, 221 people went to the voting booth in Onida to vote on the question of issuing bonds in the amount of \$20,000 for the erection of a clinic. The proposition carried by a vote of almost two to one, 140 votes cast in favor and 81 against. Earlier that summer a proposed county hospital was defeated in the June primaries by an overwhelming vote. On April 23, 1951, bids were let for the construction of the Onida Hospital. The four country districts canvassed for funds completed the soliciting in Blaine, Richvalley, Fairview and Onida. The people in these four townships pledged a little over \$4,000. The City of Onida so far also pledged \$4,000. A total amount of \$30,000 in contributions would be needed to complete the new hospital.

Many Contributions Made

John Pexa of Agar brought his ditch-digging equipment to Onida during the month of May, 1951, to dig the sewer and water ditches for the new hospital. Everything in connection with this project was a donation by Mr. Pexa, for which he received the grateful thanks of everyone.

A 30-truck caravan made up of local truckers pulled into Sioux Falls early the morning of June 7, and loaded up with material for the new hospital which was now under construction. The owners of the 30 trucks donated their services for the trip. Work went ahead on the basement floor and walls and prospects were good that before long the building would be completed.

The men in this community donned aprons and caps the evening of December 17, and served a sausage and pancake supper to the public, the proceeds from which were donated to the new Onida Hospital.

The Hospital Benefit sale held on June 7, 1952, brought in a good crowd netting over \$4,000, to be used for the completion of the Onida Hospital. The Cheyenne River Roundup Quadrille from the Cheyenne Agency was one of the featured attractions of the rodeo which

was held in Blunt on July 12, 1953, sponsored by the Onida Hospital Committee. The rodeo donated its entire proceeds to the hospital. Prize money was donated by Onida businessmen, and livestock was furnished by Ervin Korkow, Small Brothers, Sutton Brothers and Art Cowan. Purses for the various events ranged from \$35 to \$75.

Dream Realized—Hospital Opens

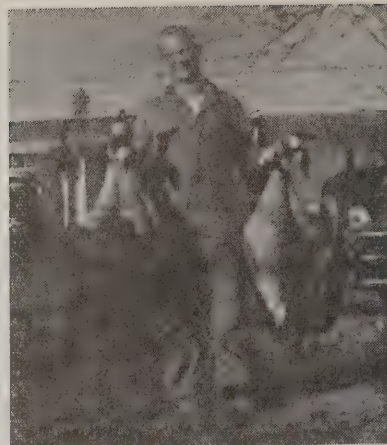
The fruition of several years' planning and hard work was realized the week of July 20, 1953, when the Onida Community Hospital was opened for business. It is a beautiful building, the embodiment of hopes, dreams, generous contributions and co-operation on the part of the entire county. When the doors were opened, a full staff was on hand to receive patients. Mrs. William D. Trythall, as head nurse, was assisted by one registered nurse, one licensed practical nurse and two aides. Mrs. Irene Wargo was employed as cook and Mrs. William Joachim of Agar was the first patient admitted at 11:30, the evening of July 21. W. G. Abbott, city auditor, was engaged as hospital manager.

Lori Lou Kleinschmidt First Baby

Lori Lou, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Kleinschmidt of Harrold was the first baby born at the Onida Community Hospital. She arrived on Friday, July 31, and by virtue of being the first birth recorded, was the recipient of a gift of money donated by Dr. A. Rimsa and H. W. Ellis.

Dr. Orgusaar

Dr. Rudolf Orgusaar arrived in Onida the week of June 10, 1954, from Revillo, South Dakota, to take over the practice of Dr. Alfreds Rimsa, who planned to leave for Los Angeles, California to specialize in heart diseases. Dr. Orgusaar practiced in Revillo for one year following 12 months interne work at McKennan Hospital in Sioux Falls. He is a native of Estonia and came to the United States in June of 1951, after spending eight years in western Germany. He started his medical training at Tartu, Estonia, and later graduated from Erlangen University in Germany. Dr. Orgusaar left here December 15, 1957, to take over duties at the Baptist Hospital in Pensacola, Florida.



Dr. George I. Westland, holding his and hunting partner's limit of prize Canadian (Honkers) geese.

Dr. Westland

Dr. George Westland, physician and surgeon, came to Onida in March, 1958. He and his wife, Nancy, and their two children Martin, 4, and Linda, 2, moved into the Luther Nelson house across the street from the hospital, which is retained for doctors and their families.

Dr. Westland occupies the doctor's offices on the main floor of the Onida Community Hospital and has, as his assistants, L. M. Carr, laboratory technician, and Mrs. Marian Mayes, R. N., receptionist and nurse. Technician Carr is also on the hospital staff, as well as aiding Dr. Westland.

Mr. and Mrs. Carr had a house moved onto the lot just north of the Clarence Culey home on South Main. They have two children, Sharon and Patricia.

Mrs. Mayes is the former Marian Todd. Her husband, Larry, is bookkeeper at H & H Motors. They have three sons; twins, Larry, Jr., and Terry, and Gregory.

The Hospital Auxiliary sponsored an Open House on Sunday, March 9, in honor of Dr. Westland, Technician Carr and their families.

THE DENTISTS

Dr. Ray Merrick was Onida's first resident dentist. He maintained his office in his home, near the William Trythall corner. Later, he moved out to his claim northeast of the cemetery and had his office at that location.

Dr. Trythall

Dr. and Mrs. Trythall and son, Wil-

liam Davis, came to Onida in 1913. Dr. Trythall located his dental office on the second floor of the Johnson-Haverly brick building where he remained until 1943, when the family moved to Faith, South Dakota. He practiced there until the time of his death.

Dr. John Trythall was born in Dodgeville, Wisconsin, in 1873, the seventh child in the Michael Trythall family, who had been sent to the United States by the King of England, to care for the gold mines of the southwest.

Dr. Trythall graduated from Northwestern University Dental School in 1904 and started practicing at Hurley, South Dakota, the following year. In 1910, he married Margie Davis, at Bismarck, North Dakota.



Dr. John Trythall, Onida dentist from 1913 to 1942.

Dr. Trythall was an ardent sportsman in hunting, fishing and golfing.

Following his death on May 13, 1944, Mrs. Trythall returned to Onida and presently lives in one of the Gropengieser apartments. Their son, William, is superintendent of the light and water plant. He is married and they have two children, Margie Ann and Mikey.

THE LAWYERS

Onida's first attorney was a young man from New York state, who came here in the early spring of 1886. He didn't stay long and was followed by Thomas M. Goddard, who opened an office in the building just south of the old courthouse (Mosiman Hotel) early in 1889. In a short time Walter and Joe N. Meloon went into business with Mr. Goddard.

Another early-day attorney to come to Onida was J. F. Martin, who put out his shingle in 1890 on the building which is now Veo's Variety. His stay was short-lived, however. In 1909, M. W. Murphy began his practice here and also did not last long, as he left in January of the following year for Fargo, North Dakota. Homer Hoover, of Pierre, took over his practice. James E. Temmey, M. H. Quimby and J. H. Gropengieser also were early-day attorneys. Practicing law must have been a lucrative business around 1910, because Onida boasted five resident attorneys at that time.

In 1919 the partnership of Crandall & Eager opened. C. J. Crandall, Jr., practiced in Onida until 1933, when Francis M. Ryan took over his practice. Mr. Ryan's associates have been D. Nelson, a 1950 graduate of the University of South Dakota Law School, from 1950 to August, 1953, when he moved to St. Paul, Minnesota, and Spencer Nissen, also a law graduate of the University of South Dakota, from 1953 to July, 1954, when he went to Washington, D. C.

Francis M. Ryan has the distinction of being the first baby born in Agar, Sully County, on September 5, 1910. He attended the first and second grades in that bustling town just eight miles north of Onida on Highway 83, then moved with his family to Ashton, South Dakota, and later moved to Gettysburg, where he graduated from high school. He received his law degree from Creighton University, Omaha, Nebraska, in the spring of 1933, and was admitted to practice law in Nebraska and South Dakota that same year. He came to Onida in August, 1933, and has been actively practicing law since then. In February of 1934, he married Mary Smith, a college sweetheart, of Omaha, Nebraska. A son, James

Edward, was born in November of 1934, and on Mother's Day in 1945, a little girl, Patricia Anne, age 2½ months, arrived to make her home with the Ryans, to complete the family. James attended Onida schools for 12 years and received a degree from the University of South Dakota in 1956. A few days after graduation from the University, he married Shirley Hosman, of Pierre, South Dakota, and in September entered Officers Candidate School of the U. S. Marine Corps at Quantico, Virginia, and at present is a first lieutenant in the Marine Corps stationed at El Toro, California. He has a daughter, Barbara Ann.



Swansons Receive \$500 Grand Prize

Mr. and Mrs. Les Swanson, Onida Gamble Store dealers, attended the Gamble-Skogmo Merchandise Show held in Minneapolis the week of June 8, 1952, and were advised by telegram that they had been awarded the grand prize in the Toys and Soft Lines showing, consisting of a \$500 wardrobe for the entire family.



First Beauty Operator

Mrs. Elsie Lindell, mother of Lee Lindell, came to Onida in 1926, and operated a beauty shop in her home (Joe Lamb residence). Later she opened the LaVogue Shoppe in one of the Serbousek buildings and then moved across the street to the DeLuxe Parlors adjoining the new

barber shop. In May, 1940, she was married to Bill Robinson. Her next business location was in the hotel. When Virginia Byrum became her assistant in 1943, she moved to the Gropengieser building and established a beauty parlor there until January, 1944, when she and her husband moved to Priest River, Idaho.



Photography Is Her Hobby

Bess Gropengieser displayed a series of prints in Pierre in January, 1938, in connection with the photographic salons sponsored by the Capital Journal. These prints were taken in the main with a graflex camera.

Miss Gropengieser, who has received national recognition, is an accomplished workman, and her prints show a thorough knowledge of her chosen field. Her work is devoted to landscapes, as well as other types of photography, and indicates the many types of work which are possible with the use of a graflex.



Many Improvements Made in 1919

The year 1919 saw a wonderful transformation in Onida. More than \$160,000 was spent in permanent improvements. Many new residences were built and a score of others remodeled. Two new brick and one frame business places were built, and nearly every building on the street was remodeled. A number of business changes took place and the new men were exceptionally wide awake and aggressive.

Inserted Here as a Continuation of "Main Street Businesses Today," from Page 60

Baxter Chemicals was established by Earl Baxter in 1954. He and his wife, Ruby, have farming interests as well, and came here from Oklahoma. The chemical business, new to this agricultural area, was developed following World War II, when many ammunition plants were utilized for this purpose. In three years' time it has outgrown any other major business development in the United States.



Hi-Way Garage & Case Implements was purchased by "Buck" Crabtree in 1955, who originally came here from Watertown. Leroy Klein is an employee. "Buck" and Carole have two children, Karen and Kenney.

John Day Implements moved into its new building in October, 1958. John and Ednamae Day have two children, Joe, a senior in high school, and Johnny, a first grader. Vern Palmer has been an employee since 1946. Vern and his wife, Ethel, have two children, Donna (Mrs. Charles Stephens) and Keith, a sophomore in Onida High School. Other employees include Bob Clausen, Orville Davis, Paul Rieher, Melvin Davis, Ted Evans, Milt Hickock, Leroy Hyde and Reuben Niehoff.



Stahl's Highway Service was purchased by Francis Stahl in 1958, and is managed by his brother, Woody.

Musical Life In Onida

The first pianist and church organist was Miss Minnie Agar, but unfortunately her talents were not long enjoyed, as she passed away suddenly at an early age. She was succeeded as organist by Miss Matie Porter. Onida was always proud of its choir from the very earliest days and the little village was fortunate in having a goodly number of musical people among the early settlers. The Lillibridges, Agars, Garners, Lillys, Weyands, Barbers and others brought Onida a great wealth of musical and dramatic talent from the East.

As early as 1885, on December 22, to be exact, a two-act drama, entitled, "Among the Breakers," was presented by the Onida Dramatic Company. The cast included Henry Edgerton, Dr. E. J. Laughlen, Miss Lizzie Wales, C. H. Agar, C. W. Holmes, Joe A. Meloon, Miss Minnie Agar, Miss Elva Griffith and Mr. and Mrs. Frank Brigham. Piano music was furnished by Miss Agar and Mrs. Brigham between acts.

Possibly no other individual had a greater influence than Professor S. W. Gates, who came here from Council Bluffs, Iowa. He conducted singing schools, directed the choir and became "Onida's Patron Saint of Music." A church choir was always maintained and provided entertainment at special programs on Decoration Day, Fourth of July, Old Settlers' Day and other occasions.

Professor W. H. Reed organized the first band and it progressed rapidly under his instruction. Mr. Reed also developed the Goddard orchestra from the very musical family of Thomas Goddard, who moved to Onida in the late eighties. Bert Lilly took over the Onida band in December, 1889, with Irvin Sargent, John Cole, D. M. Anderson, Ed Shepherd, A. A. Faust, C. R. Garner and John Garner as members, and by June of the following year, Onida had the best cornet band in the state for size. The band boys received new uniforms in October, 1892. Onida also boasted a dancing club during the nineties.



Onida Church Choir. Pictured back row, left to right—Mrs. Julia Gropengieser, Elsie (Brooking) Brown, Victoria (Brooking) Johnson, Millie (Nelson) Johnson, Mark Kimmel and E. E. Brooking, Sr. Front row, left to right—C. R. Garner, Mrs. Dean (wife of Rev. Dean), a granddaughter of Dr. Pease and Ethel (Jordan) Samuels, organist.



Onida Band in 1892. Pictured, left to right, Newton Garner, Frank Porter, Bert Lilly, C. R. Garner, Ed Gates, Sam Lilly, Harlan Porter, Claude Garner, C. F. (Cal) Barber, Ed Shepherd and Charles Gates.

Mrs. C. R. Garner was the church organist during the 1890's and early 1900's. Both she and Mr. Garner presented organ and instrumental numbers which were enjoyed by the community.

In 1904 the Rev. C. L. Cone organized a singing school which was held in the Methodist Church. Mr. Cone was an excellent musician, both vocal and instrumental, and a fine instructor.

On July 26, 1911, a concert was given in the Dunlap Hall by Miss Kathryn Marso and Miss Murial Swanson. The young ladies had just graduated from the Chicago Musical College. Miss Marso played the violin and sang the vocal numbers, and Miss Swanson, the piano solos and readings, besides being accompanist.

Another singing school was organized in 1917, with the Rev. Bullock as director. He was also elected president of the group; Miss Howland, vice president, and Albert Schriever, secretary and treasurer. In the middle and late twenties a well known and talented group of youthful musicians, known as Keck's Kornet Kids, brought

fame and honor to Sully County. The group made a trip to Chicago for a personal appearance, and was very much in demand for out-of-town entertainment, as well as in Onida. Mr. Keck also conducted an adult band for a number of years.

Alice and Earl Haverly, graduates of Onida High School, provided musical entertainment for the community. Alice was pianist during her high school career and later received a degree in music at Carleton college. She taught music in Onida and also in Murdo, South Dakota.

Mrs. W. B. Spears and Mrs. Earl Hardwick have both been responsible for a good deal of music in Onida, having been pianists for church, organizations and accompanied many singing groups and soloists. Mrs. Spears also gave private piano lessons. Others contributing their musical talents were Mrs. Grace Frahm, who directed and accompanied several minstrel shows, Mrs. Minnie Zimmer, Mrs. John Sutton, Glenn Hughes, Wendell West, Roy Teets and his two sons, "Rusty" and Roy, Jr.



Keck's Kornet Kids. A band composed of young boys, directed by M. R. Keck. Popular musical organization during the late 20's.

Clarinet Quartette in 1940.

Pictured, left to right, Margaret Fern Spears, Cathy Spears, Marge Durrstein, and Bernice Hardwick.



Mrs. Helen Croes Trythall taught grade school music and directed high school chorus groups. Her ability to teach music to children did much to interest many young people to participate in local music groups.

Dorothy Lister Patterson, a native of Onida, started her musical career with Mrs. Will Spencer and graduated from Yankton College with a major in music. She continued her studies at MacPhail School of Music in Minneapolis and has attended summer music school at Estes Park, Colorado, together with her daughter, Heather, who is also a talented musician. Mrs. Patterson is head of the music department in the Watertown city schools and also teaches piano and organ.

Sylvia Adams Schenk, a graduate of Onida High School, is also an accomplished musician and gave much of her time and talent to musical activities while she lived in Onida. She studied music at



Sylvia (Adams) Schenk

Yankton College, was Grand Organist for Eastern Star and teaches both organ and piano. She married Floyd Schenk, of Yankton, South Dakota, where they pres-

ently reside. They have one daughter, Janet.

Another native of Onida, recognized in the field of fine arts, is Bernice Hardwick Lincoln, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Earl Hardwick, who began her musical career at the age of six, when she was a piano pupil of Mrs. Addie Williamson and later of Sylvia Adams Schenk. She was pianist of the Presbyterian Church for many years and when she was not available her mother very capably took



Bernice (Hardwick) Lincoln

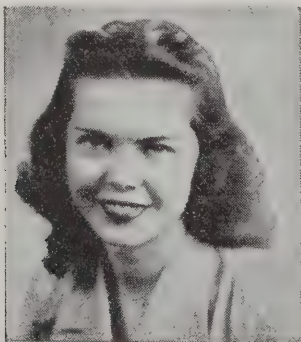
over. Bernice also excelled on the clarinet and appeared many times as soloist, in a clarinet quartette and girls' sextette. She attended Summer High School Band camps during her four years at Onida High and went to the National Music Contest the years she was a junior and senior. In the field of dramatics she won first place in the State Speech Contest and participated in the High School National Speech Contest held at Lexington, Kentucky, in 1941. Her speech director was Margaret Burell. Bernice graduated from Cornell College in 1945, and was presented



Girls' Sextette in 1941. Pictured, left to right—Bernice Hardwick, Cathy Spears, Mary Gross, Marge Durrstein, Jean Haverly, Eva Marie Serbousek and Helen (Croes) Trythall, director.

in a clarinet recital during her senior year there. Following her graduation she taught school in Denver and Madison, Wisconsin. She was married in June, 1945, to Robert S. Lincoln, of Rockford, Illinois, and they now live in Palo Alto, California. They have three children, David, nine; Ann, seven, and Barbara, who is six.

Another talented musician is Virginia Fosness Cook, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. L. A. Fosness, who started her musical career at the early age of five under Mrs. Will Spencer. She studied piano all during her 12 years of school in Onida and four years in college. She was pianist for Onida High School for four years and church pianist for three years. During college vacations she gave piano lessons, was piano instructor at Yankton College one summer and gave private lessons at Oak Ridge, Tennessee, and Pasadena, California. In August, 1946, she was presented in a piano recital at the Governor's Mansion, Pierre, sponsored by Governor and Mrs. M. Q. Sharpe and Mr. and Mrs. N. F. Nelson. Then in 1948, she was presented by Yankton College in her Junior



Virgina (Fosness) Cook

Piano Recital and the following year, when she was a senior at the University of South Dakota, she presented a recital at Slagle Auditorium. She is married to Charles W. Cook, of Yankton, and they now live in San Diego, California. They have three children, Jennifer Lea, age four; William, two, and Amy Alen, six months old.

Norma Stockstad, now Mrs. Darrell Harer, of Potter County, contributed to the high school musical activities and was accompanist for chorus and glee club groups. She was presented in a piano recital by her instructor, Mrs. Nelson, during her senior year in high school.

Mrs. Maynard Knox has given generously of her musical talents since she was a high school student and is still accompanying local and high school singing groups and soloists. She was organist for Eastern Star for 15 years and is presently pianist at the Presbyterian Church. Her son, Parker, a junior at Huron College, was pianist for Onida High School for four years and is pianist at church during college vacations.

Onida can rightfully boast a goodly number of vocal soloists at the present time including Betty Rivenes Hyde, Mrs. Helen Weischedel, Mrs. Grace Williams, Mrs. Joan Goosen, Mrs. Nancy Westland and Mrs. Arlene Donahue, who is music instructor in the Onida Public Schools.

The most recent musicians to come to Onida are Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Rom, who have already in the few months they have lived here, given generously of their musical talents to the local schools, churches and community activities. Mr. Rom is the Onida School's band director.

Golden Rule Days

Seventy-five Years of the Three R's
in Onida

One of the many projects undertaken in the new Village of Onida was to provide education for the children.

During the winter of 1883-84, a school board was elected with Frank Brigham and Charles Agar as two of the members. After bonds were voted for a schoolhouse, a 24x36 foot building, with an additional vestibule, was erected approximately on the site of the present City Auditorium.

Miss Emma Jeffers, formerly from the state of New York, was hired as the teacher at a salary of \$20.00 a month. She made her home with her uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Lillibridge.

On a beautiful Monday morning in April, 1884, the school bell rang for the first time in Onida. About 8:30 a.m., there appeared at the schoolhouse Charles and Gertrude Everts, Ed and Ida Shepherd, Millie (C. R.) Garner, Calla Lilly, Grace Brigham, John, Earl and George Starks and Reno Livingstone. Before the end of the term, Chauncy Blake entered school for a few weeks.

Most of the textbooks used that first term were those that parents and friends had brought with them from the East. Later a regular set of textbooks was purchased. Slates were used instead of scratch paper and small sponges were much in demand to clean the slates.

Mrs. H. E. Kimmel taught Latin and French in her home during those early years. Many young people took advantage of this private instruction and progressed rapidly under Mrs. Kimmel's tutorage.



Mrs. H. E. Kimmel, an early pioneer who taught Latin and French in her home prior to high school days in Onida. She was lovingly known as "Mamma" Kimmel.

In 1899, the school board met to consider a site for another school building, as Onida's school age children had outgrown their first schoolhouse. Three appraisers were appointed by County Superintendent Minnie A. Porter, with the re-



First School in Onida, fall of 1885. Back row, left to right—Ida Shepherd, Calla Lilly, Ella Toomey, DeEette Lillibridge, Mrs. Alice Taylor, Nellie Page, Gertie Everts, John Toomey, Newton Garner, Millard Hyde, Calvin Barber, Charles Everts, Ernest Sieler, Glen Lillibridge and Millie Garner. Middle row—Jessie Agar, Sieler girl, Grace Brigham, Bill Mallick and Cora Clark. Front row—Sieler girl, Everts, Earl Funston, Nellie Norton, George Fred Sieler, Newton Garner, Ed Toomey, Willie Parrish and Albert Toomey.

sult that two acres of land were purchased for \$100.00 adjoining the original schoolhouse to the east. In a short time a small building was moved on this land and served as a schoolhouse for the first four grades with the upper grades remaining in the original building.

The first eighth grade class to graduate with commencement activities was on June 12, 1902. County Superintendent Emma Nelson (Lister) started this custom during her term of office. The graduating students were Raymond Lytle, Lulu Porter, Elizabeth Nixon, Robert McMacken, George Bunch, Addie Hamlink, Martha Backhouse, Hulda Hall and Verne Johnston.

1903, the school board adopted the four-year high school course of study and made plans to establish high school classes the following year. However, this objective was not achieved until 1918.

During T. L. Mitchell's term as county superintendent in 1909, Onida voted to become an independent school district. Mr. Mitchell assumed the duties of principal and taught several high school subjects to a few students.

Miss Jessie Livingstone taught grades one through four during the 1911 school

term with 76 pupils registered. Prof. L. A. Royal was principal at that time and taught grades five through nine. These classes were held upstairs in the Johnson-Haverly building as they had outgrown the old school building. High school students outside the district paid \$2.00 a month tuition, payable in advance.

On June 20, 1911, Onida voters passed a bond issue in the amount of \$7,500.00 for a new four-room brick building to be constructed on lots purchased in the Cole Addition. E. E. Brooking was clerk of the school board at that time. The new two-story brick schoolhouse with full basement was completed the following year.



Grade School Building, 1912



Grade School Pupils, 1909. Back row, left to right — Nina Dawson, Mary Holmes, unidentified, Ralph Lister, Duane Lilly, Ralph Byrum, Glen Lilly and unidentified. Middle row — Clyde Lilly, Mary Sedgewick, Greta Brubough, Miss Blanche Nelson (teacher), Clarissa Knight, Jessie Sedgewick and unidentified. Front row — Minnie Wagner, Melitta Osterkamp, Bill Wagner, LaVere Hyde, Ralph Wagner, Vera Dawson.



Grade School Students, 1915. Miss Blanche Nelson, teacher. Back row, left to right—Gladys (Serbousek) Youngberg, Julia (Barber) Doner, Cecil (Kleinschmidt) Ludwig, Marian (Glessner) Goranson, Margaret (Johnson) Mateer, Dormel O'Donnell, Alice (Haverly) Gillies, Marjorie Brown, Pauline (Ludwig) Stewart, Thora Hardwick and Audrey (Garner) Halloran. Front row—Connie Hyde, Harry Rumrill, Guy Phares, unidentified, Kenneth Brown, Robert Johnson, Ralph Phares, Ralph Morris, Clarence Ludwig, Myron Brown and Ralph Quimby.

There were two large rooms on each floor and two rooms in the basement. On October 28, classes moved into the new building with Professor Mitchell as principal, Miss Nannie Green, Miss Edith Chenhall and Miss Stella Pope. There were eight students enrolled in high school at that time. Anna Temmey had the distinction of being the first student to graduate from the twelfth grade of

Onida High School. Being the only member of the class of 1916, she received her diploma without formality.

Prof. J. M. Arneson served as principal in 1916, and after two years of progressive work, established the school on the three-year accredited list. The following year, Prof. C. W. Gruver completed the task and in July, of that year, Onida High School became a four-year accredi-

Onida High School Students in 1915. Back row, left to right—George Fisher, Prof. E. J. Gustafson, Ford Cole and Ralph Byrum. Front row—Adeline (McArthur) Reynolds, Clarissa (Knight) Hardwick, Lillie (Sheffer) Koll, Lissa (Haverly) Howard, Anna (Temmey) Markey and Lona (Yung) Warne.



ed school. Ellen Pierce was the first graduate under the four-year accreditation. She is now Mrs. Harold Fuller, of Huron, and is a sister of Robert Pierce, Mrs. Ralph Phares and Mrs. Fern Currier.

By 1918, basketball for both boys and girls was well organized. Axel Peterson was the boys' coach and Miss Elva Walker was the girls' coach and also music instructor. Teachers that year included Professor Gruver, Mrs. S. B. Cook, Miss Walker, Miss Aster Davis (Spears), Miss Blanche Nelson and Miss Bess Gropengieser. From November until January 12, the following year, schools were closed because of the seriousness of the influenza epidemic.

In the fall of 1919, Onida Township and the City of Onida voted to be one district and thus became Onida Independent District No. 1, as it is today. The board of education also established the position of superintendent of the Onida school, and Prof. F. I. Satterlee became the first superintendent of the local school. The compulsory school attendance law became effective that year and many problems developed in an effort to enforce the new regulation. Literary and debating societies were formed in high school with Ross McConnell and Elsie Byrum as presidents. Other officers were Mildred Youngberg, Grace Brooking, Gladys Cox, Herbert Byrum, Alice Jordan, Mae Youngberg, Elezer Byrum and Mildred Miller.

Professor Satterlee came to Onida in 1920 and directed the destiny of the schools for five years. During his administration, the local schools developed rapidly and achieved high standards equal to many larger and older school systems. Superintendent Satterlee was responsible for developing the athletic

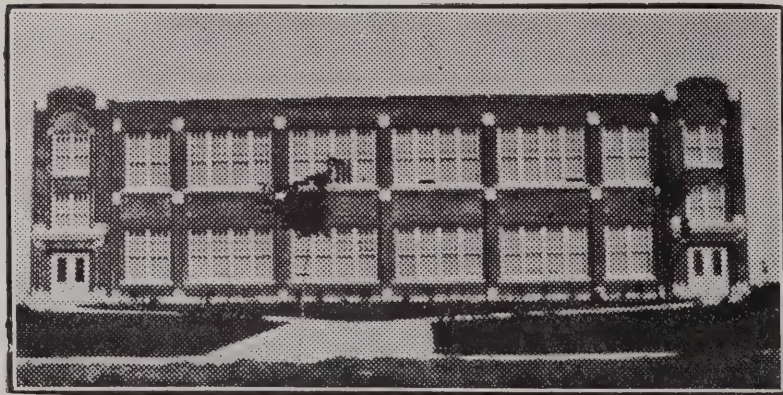
program and started the first football team that played competitive games. The first 11-man game was played at Pierre on October 7, 1920, with C. J. Crandall as coach. The score was 50 to 0 in favor of the hosts.

Athletics continued to be an important activity throughout the years and Onida can well be proud of its athletes and the trophies and plaques displayed in the high school. Marlyn Goldhammer is the present football and basketball coach, as well as instructor in social science. Ronald Lawrence has been hired as assistant coach and will teach freshman English, mathematics and general science. Jack Donahue, as principal of the Onida schools and instructor in science and mathematics, is also the track coach.

During 1921, oratory, declamation and debate were developed. The first debate team included Beth Knox, Raymond Doyle, Marjorie Brown, Wright McConnell, Alice Youngberg and Glenwood Robinson. The subject was "Immigration." In November of that year, Professor and Mrs. Jeffers arrived and organized a school and community band and orchestra. The first concert was presented on December 29, 1921. Music has since become an important part of the Onida schools. Penmanship, taught by Miss Katie Heitland, was also introduced in the school system at that time.

In 1923, a \$50,000 bond issue was voted to construct a new high school which is now the large central building of the school plant.

The first electric clock was installed as a gift from the graduating class of 1924. Manual training, agriculture and home economics were added to the curriculum that year. On December 26, an alumni association was formed with Theo-



High School Building in 1923

dore McGuire as president and Pauline Ludwig, secretary and treasurer.

That same year a delegation of students represented Onida for the first time at the music contest held in Brookings. Onida had the distinction of presenting the only chorus in the state "B" classification, receiving a first rating. Miss Mildred Pfeiffer was the music instructor at that time. First place ratings were awarded to Earl Haverly, bass solo, and Dorothy Lister, reed section. Other ratings were given to Miss Lister, alto solo; Cecil Kleinschmidt, bass horn and soprano solo; Harold McGinnis, violin, and Glenn Hughes, tenor solo. Two loving cups and several medals and ribbons were proudly displayed trophies earned at that first musical venture.

Onida High School received the charter of admittance to the North Central Association of Secondary Schools and Colleges in April, 1926, and is still rated among the best high schools in the Northwest. Graduates are accepted without examination by any of the colleges or universities recognized by the North Central Association.

Many new activities and enterprises were entered into during the year 1926. Tennis became a new sport with students making their own courts; magazine subscriptions were sold to increase the activity fund; a victrola was added to the music department, and the school became a member of the National Athletic Scholarship Society.

Pictures of high school graduates

were published in the Watchman for the first time in 1929.

On April 28, 1930, the stage curtains in the high school assembly caught fire due to a short circuit, and the building possibly might have been lost, but for the quick thinking of Judge M. H. Quimby, who saw the fire and immediately called the fire department.

Since 1930, a Citizenship Award has been presented to the outstanding high school senior or seniors. This award is based on extra-curricular activities, loyalty, leadership and scholarship, and is considered to be one of the greatest honors of the school. Those who have received this award since its introduction to the present time are Dorothy Brown, 1930; Sylvia Adams, 1931; Edythe McMacken, 1932; Francis Wiedenman, 1933; Edwin Johnson, 1934; Patricia Nelson, 1935; Faith Bauman, 1936; LeRoy Kellogg, 1937; Pauline Brown, 1938; John Bauman, 1939; Margaret Fern Spears, 1940; Bernice Hardwick, 1941; Doyle Zimmer, Lois Shaw and Amos Wipf, 1942; Jack Nelson, Eva Marie Serbousek and Marguerite Kottke, 1943; Millard Seaman, 1944; Norma Bandy and Virginia Fosness, 1945; Joyce Walter, 1946; David Ridinger, 1947; John Sutton, Jr., 1948; William Jordan, 1949; Beverly Wilcox, 1950; Howard Yeager, 1951; Jerome Yackley, 1952; Ronald Lawrence, 1953; Newell Ludwig and Lila Blaisdell, 1954; Larry Rupkalvis, 1955; Parker Knox, 1956; Dennis Pullman, 1957 and Richard Olson, 1958.

The first authentic Homecoming Day,



High School Junior Class in 1926. Pictured back row, left to right—Beatrice Brookings, Gladys Wilcox, Gladys Moore, Mildred Glessner, Dorothy (Quimby) Kambak, Velma (Foster) Thompson, Mildred (Bandy) Starbuck, Miss Wise (teacher), Margaret (McConachie) Knox, Ruth (Brown) Lumley, Opal Telford, Beatrice (Hertel) Howard, Hazel (Sorenson) Ludwig, Vivian Johnson, Barbara Pullman and Elsie (Schriever) Tunnell. Front row—Walter Nelson, Homer Bensley, Maynard Hart, Matt Glanzer, Irvin Maloney, James Norfolk, Orville Hyde, Preston Starbuck and Ben Johnson.

featuring a Ki-Yi Princess, was inaugurated in 1931. Alma Glessner was chosen the first Ki-Yi Princess.

Supt. E. B. Coacher came to Onida in 1932 and remained here for nine years, during which time many changes and improvements were made in the school curriculum. Mr. Coacher is now secretary to the South Dakota Board of Regents.

A full commercial department was added during Mr. Coacher's first year as superintendent, which included typewriting, shorthand, bookkeeping, business arithmetic and business English. Earl Guyman is the present commercial instructor.

Walter Green organized a school band in 1934 and was its director for four years. He gave free instruction on any instrument, which was an inducement to many students to become members of the band. Raymond Rom is the present band instructor and he also gives free instruction on all instruments. He conducts two bands, junior and senior, and a high school orchestra. Onida also has an outstanding rhythm band composed of the first and second grade students, directed by Mrs. Ora Otey and Mrs. Mildred Main. The young band members are dressed in uniform costumes and have made several public appearances.

A Smith-Hughes Agriculture Department was added in 1936. Ray Larson was the first instructor and it was he who was instrumental in starting a Future Farmers of America Club in 1937 for boys in the agricultural classes. This organization is still very active. James Crandall is the present Ag instructor and

advisor of the F. F. A. Club. Onida High School dairy judging team won the state championship in 1938 and placed twelfth in the national contest held in Kansas City, Missouri. The team was composed of Maynard Green, Gordon Walker, Merle Cottrill and David Hull. Gilbert Foth was the instructor at that time.

The first annual was published in the spring of 1939. Elizabeth Grimes, of Sioux Falls, acted as advisor. Marion Rodman was editor-in-chief and Bob Clair, business manager, both being assisted by other members of the class of 1939. The name "Warrior" was suggested by Wendell West as a title for the annual, which won the approval of the students, and has remained as such to date. Ivan Koch is the annual advisor at the present time, as well as instructor in English, Latin, speech and dramatics.

The next decade were difficult years in all schools, due to the effects of World War II and postwar adjustments. It was a task to find qualified teachers to fill the many vacancies. Classes were cut as many moved away to work in war plants and numerous junior and senior boys went into army service.

Supt. W. K. Bartlett came to Onida in 1949 and directed the band and chorus groups, in addition to his administrative duties. A girls' trio, composed of Shirley Westphal, Grace Haverly and Jean Main, won a superior and took part in the Grand Concert at the District Music Contest held in Mobridge. In the spring of 1949, Onida sent two students to Senior Day at the State University.

The average cost per teacher in a 12-year school system in 1950 was \$3,576.00



Senior Class in 1936. Pictured back row, left to right—Clarence Anderson, Charles Serbousek, James Yackley, Ellis Pierce, William Glessner, Levaun Shoup, Helen Mae Doyle, Eleanor Haverly and Iris Telford. Front row, left to right—Tom Melody, Richard Johnson, Faith Bauman, Edna Mae Thomas and Cleo Eller.



Fifth and Sixth Grades in 1949. Pictured back row, left to right—Maynard Rilling, Melvin Waldner, Richard Byrum, Lyle Sutton, Ruth Sheets, Betty Morrison, Carolyn Porter, Mark Hyde, BennaBee Rawstern, Helen Phares, Verna Wakefield, Phyllis Balaberda and Maryanne Schumaker. Middle row—Mrs. Aho (teacher), Shirley Wargo, Nancy Merrill, LaVonne Rilling, Penny Cruthoff, Gerry Ripley, Donna Edge, Judy Stewart, Lyle Chase, Alice Sutton, Marjorie Hantke, Parker Knox, Betty Ludwig and Clarabelle Seaman. Front row—Helen Brandt, Frances Edge, Keith Ludwig, Kenneth Sutton, James Glassmaker, Lyman Chase, John Hall and Eldon Rawstern.

and \$225.00 cost per student. Funds for operating were obtained by a 56 to 72 per cent taxation, the balance of which was acquired by tuition, state and federal aid and county apportionment of state funds.

Onida won four excellent ratings in vocal solos at the Mobridge District Music Contest in 1951. Receiving these ratings were Betty Rivenes, Thelma Sutton, David Minder and Dwight McGuire. The boys' and girls' glee clubs, chorus and sextette

also received excellent ratings at that contest. Mrs. Jack Donahue was the music instructor at that time and is, at the present time, instructing soloists and musical groups in the Onida schools.

Supt. S. M. Stockdale came here in 1953, leaving in the spring of 1956. The schools were becoming crowded about that time and the grade building showed signs of dangerous decaying conditions. It was also impossible to adequately heat



Fourth and Fifth Grades in 1952. Pictured back row, left to right—LaNita Sweany, Maxine Drew, Bonnie Becker, Carol Woods, Lillian Mikkelsen, Ellen Johnson and Mrs. Elva Jordan, teacher. Middle row—Charles Hank, Larry Taylor, David Ganfield, Patty Cruthoff, Sharon Hyde, Carol Rilling and Billy Cass. Front row—Van Stewart, Donald Hughart, Joe Day, Norma Rilling and Peggy Kennedy.



Freshmen Initiation in 1953

the grade school basement gymnasium. Also, the City Auditorium, which had been rented by the Onida Independent School District for a number of years for bas-

ketball and other school activities, proved to be inadequate both in floor space and seating.

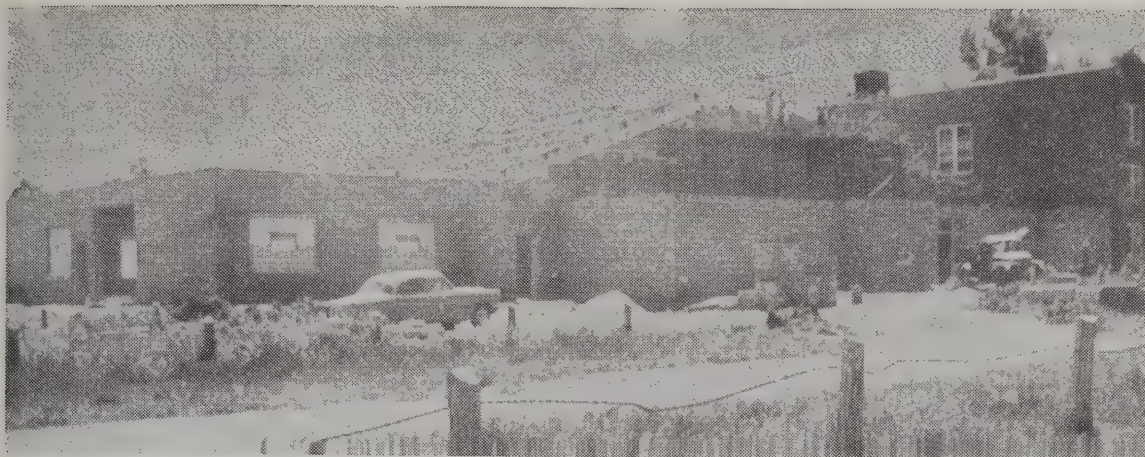
It became evident that Onida was in dire need of improved school facilities and it was then that plans were discussed for the construction of new grade school classrooms and a gymnasium large enough to accommodate the athletic program and other activities.

In seeking a replacement to fill the superintendency, the school board decided to try and find a person trained and interested in school plant construction, as well as a successful administrator. They were fortunate in finding such a man in Joe N. Greenan, of Huron, former superintendent at Artesian, South Dakota.

Superintendent Greenan immediately accepted his responsibilities and his first step was to plan a new grade school and select its location. He formulated a tentative plan and presented it to the school board. He then called in qualified engineers to thoroughly inspect the old grade



Junior High Basketball Boys and Cheerleaders in 1956. Pictured back row, left to right—John Knox, Joe Day, Jim Thompson, Bob Zebroski, Billy Donahue, Bob Kinder, Marvin Chenoweth, David Burge, Charles Hank and Jerry Zebroski. Third row—Coach Kenneth Sutton, Harry Thomas, Van Stewart, Jim Terbush, Jim Boren, Joe Serbousek, Gary Swanson, Frank Sack and Ronald Bartels. Second row—Craig Hilton, John Becker, Gary Chase, Tom Merrill, Larry Terbush, Keith Palmer, Sam Jarnigan, Ray Sutton and W. H. Evans. Front row—Judy Hank, Shirley Ripley, Julie Becker and Maxine Erp, cheerleaders.



New Auditorium-Gymnasium and Shop in 1958

school building. A previous examination of that building was made in 1955, and it was reported then that the interior supports were depreciating and there was a serious settling of the building. All mass movements were restricted and running and jumping were prohibited. The sec-



Supt. Joe N. Greenan

ond survey confirmed those facts and that repair of the building would be extremely costly. Therefore, it was decided to build, if possible.

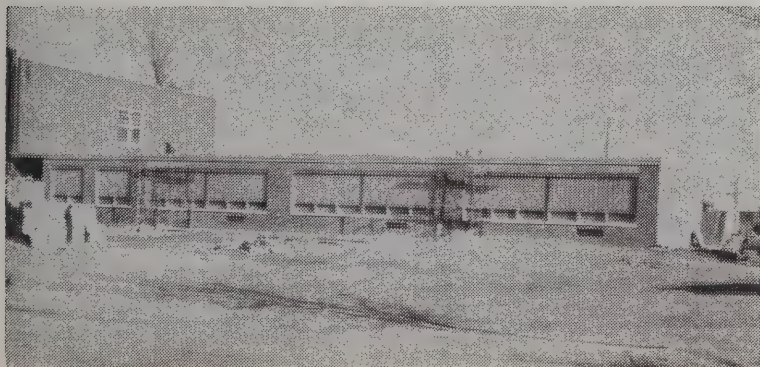
Mr. Greenan then made the necessary plans to present the facts to the citizens of Onida. Those facts were conveyed to the community through editorials

in the local newspaper, talks at service clubs and personal contacts by members of a Citizens Committee.

Thus the voters of Onida decided the issue by going to the polls on February 7, 1957, and passing by a comfortable margin a \$250,000 bond issue for an expansion and replacement program. This was the third major advancement by Onida School District No. 1 toward always maintaining the best schools possible for its children.

The school board proceeded to carry out plans for the construction of a new grade school building with six modern classrooms and an auditorium-gymnasium. As a result the students of 1958 enjoyed new and modern facilities. The auditorium-gymnasium has a 1200 seating capacity and facilities for agricultural needs, shower rooms, hot lunch and band and chorus practices.

The hot lunch program has become very popular and operates at the peak of efficiency in its new quarters with Mrs. Minnie Schlenker and Mrs. Hazel Phares



New Grade School Building in 1958

in charge of preparing and serving the noon lunch.

The citizens of Onida and of the surrounding area can be proud to have their children receive their elementary education from one of the most up-to-date and immaculate schools in the Northwest. Winfred Fox and Darold Kuhns, as custodians, are responsible for the cleanliness, upkeep and minor repairs of the school plant, both inside and outside.

The old grade building was demolished and some day new homes will be built in that beautiful area.

A lighted sports field is being planned and when completed will add a great deal to home events throughout the summer and early fall. The Onida Jaycees sponsored a fund drive to make this lighted sports field possible. The grounds surrounding the athletic field and new buildings are in the process of being landscaped and in a few years will be one of the outstanding beauty spots in the City of Onida.—M. S.

Portrayed Leading Figure

Mrs. Catherine S. Bien portrayed a leading figure in an authentic replica of President George Washington's birthday ball in 1797, which was recreated in the 43rd renewal of the Washington and Lee University's annual fancy dress ball on February 18, 1949, in Lexington, Virginia. Escorted by her husband, William D. Bien, Mrs. Bien led the lavish pageantry of the largest social event of the southern collegiate year. A graduate of Onida High School and of Northern State Teachers College, Aberdeen, she is the former Catherine Spears, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Spears.

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On February 19, 1892, the Onida schools gave an art exhibition to raise funds for a state educational exhibit at the Columbian Exposition in Chicago.

☆ ☆ ☆

The Onida graduating class of 1948 held a five year reunion in July of 1953.



School Board Members in 1958. Pictured, left to right—Roy Kimbell, Burl Corcoran, President James Young, Wayne Nelson, Mrs. John Sutton, Supt. Joe N. Greenan and Mrs. Maynard Knox, clerk.



Interior Methodist Church, Built in 1956

The Onida Churches

First Methodist Episcopal Church

The First Methodist Episcopal Church of Onida was incorporated under the laws of South Dakota in March of 1893.

The Articles of Incorporation and the charter bear the names of S. W. Gates, Wallace Lilly, J. H. Miller, H. E. Tagg and H. W. Ruckle. Later the name of C. K. Mallock appeared on legal papers. He was the grandfather of Mrs. Clifford Thompson.

A warranty deed shows that Lots 13 and 14, Block 4, Original Town of Onida, were given by C. H. Agar, grandfather of M. C. and Russell Hyde, both residents of Onida at the present time. Those lots and the building, which was erected during the next few years, now belong to the Open Bible Church.

In September, 1913, a trustees' re-

port bears the names of Ben Nelson, T. L. Mitchell and H. W. Ruckle, treasurer. The church property valuation was given as \$1,800. In 1919, a fund was willed to the Methodist Church from the Charles Warncke estate.

Because the small membership could no longer support a pastor, services were discontinued, and in October, 1920, the pews were sold to the Mennonite Church, east of Onida. The building was used for a time for school purposes until the present grade school was completed and following that it was used as a Community building for many years; however, the lots were retained by the church. During the years that the church was inactive, M. R. Brown, Wm. Ruckle and Pauline McGuire acted as a Board of Trustees to care for church funds and property. Others who

served in this capacity from time to time were W. H. Parkin and Walter Parkin.

In 1942, under the leadership of Chester Merrill and Guy Howard, the church was reorganized. The following year the present lots were purchased and the church building was bought from the Presbyterian Board in Huron and moved from Blunt. It was opened for the first service on Easter Sunday, 1945, with the Rev. Arthur Gugin, pastor.

The first wedding held in the church was on July 25, 1945, when Deloris Merrill and Burl Corcoran were married.

A beautiful bronze cross and matching candlesticks were presented to the church in 1948 by Mr. and Mrs. G. T. Westphal. The gift was a memorial to their son, Eugene Westphal, who gave his life in the service of his country during World War II. With the regular pastor, Rev. Earl Butz, in charge, an appropriate service of dedication was held at the church on Sunday evening, October 31. During the service Mrs. Westphal lighted the first tapers used in the candlesticks.

The church was continuously improved and cherished until it was destroyed by fire on November 27, 1955. With the money received from insurance and the sacrificial gifts of the members, the new brick building was erected and consecrated in October of 1956. The indebtedness on the new structure has been paid in full.

Pastors who have served since 1942 are Rev. Arthur Gugin, Rev. Earl Butz, Rev. Rudolph Krafts, Rev. James Gering, Rev. V. L. McVey, Rev. Robert Frescoln, and the present pastor, Rev. Harris Halstead.

A new parsonage was built on lots adjoining the church edifice in 1958, and Mr. and Mrs. Harris Halstead and family



First Methodist Episcopal Church

moved into it shortly after its completion. A consecration service and open house were held at a later date.

Many members of the Methodist Youth Fellowship attend the Lake Poinsett Methodist camp every year. Mrs. John Schaeffer, Mrs. Harvey Main and Mrs. L. S. (Arlene) Thompson are directing the music of the junior and senior choirs.—E.M.



Saint Pius Catholic Church

The history of the beginnings of Catholicism in Sully County must ultimately be linked up with those men of hardy stock, the pioneer Missionaries and Catholics of then Dakota Territory. It was a known fact that there were Catholic families scattered about this part of the territory, who for reasons of their own braved the frontier life. Among their many privations and hardships was the public practice of their faith, as there was no Catholic church nor priest.

From time to time these people would be visited by the itinerant Missionaries. One of the first recorded visits was one by Father Pierre De Smet in October 1840. Father De Smet was returning from a perilous journey over the Rocky Mountains, and while sailing down the Missouri River, stopped at Fort Pierre. From that time until 1868, Father De Smet, filled with love of his priesthood and his Divine Master, and his people, both Indian and white, returned many times to minister to them. His usual stopping place was Fort Sully. About this time another devoted Missionary, Father Ravoux from St. Paul, Minn., visited Fort Pierre, and said Mass for the Catholic Indians and white settlers. This was in the summer of 1842. Still another Missionary to come to Fort Pierre was Father Hoeken. In June of 1850, at the request of the Catholic settlers, he came to minister to them, to marry, baptize and encourage. When the Missionaries came, they made their headquarters at the settlements they found along the river banks, and sent out word to the surrounding territory for the Catholic people to come. We can well imagine the joy in the hearts of these sturdy pioneers when they heard the news that a priest had come to say Mass, to marry and baptize.

The pioneer priests who ministered in



Saint Pius Catholic Church

Sully County came from Pierre in the early years. The first Mass was said in Pierre in April, 1881, by Father C. Toner in the J. D. Hilger residence. The next year in answer to the request of the Catholic people in Pierre, Bishop Martin Marty O.S.B., Bishop of Dakota Territory, sent Father Bernard Bunning. Mass was celebrated in a store until a church was erected in July 1883. Father Bunning's parish consisted of Pierre and the counties of Hughes, Sully, Stanley, with parts of Hyde, Hand, and Beadle Counties, an area of 6,699 square miles. With the growth of the church in the towns of these counties one by one they received their own priest, and were cut off from Pierre.

The church in Sully county, however, continued to rely upon the ministrations of the priests from Pierre. Among the number of priests who came to minister to the Catholics of Sully County was Father John J. O'Neil. This was about 1900. It is recorded that the priests came about four times a year to shepherd the scattered flock in those early years. Father F. E. Stenzel, pastor of Sts. Peter and Paul Church, 1904, did the same as Father O'Neil. Mass was said in the residence of G. Gasperich, A Station, Sully County, and the residence of M. Keeley, A Station, Sully County. Among others were the Doerr residence, and the Paul Pitlick residence. Later Father Harrington, from

Gettysburg, came to Onida once a month and said Mass at the Temmey residence. About this time there was a settlement of Catholics living around Agar, and Mass was said in the Agar hall owned by Ed Ryan.

The Catholics living around Agar were attached to the church in Gettysburg, with Father Brian O'Malley as pastor. A small church was completed in Agar in 1920. Father Brian O'Malley labored in Gettysburg for eight years building a church and rectory there, and serving the people in Agar. He was followed in 1928, by Father Edward O'Connor. He in turn was followed in a few years by Father Patrick Ryan. Father Ryan was replaced due to poor health by Father M. J. Enright, who was killed by a calf jumping in front of his car. Upon the death of Father Enright the Gettysburg and Agar parishes received Father Peter P. Meyers, a native son of Potter County, as pastor in 1931. He remained for 14 years, and was succeeded by Father E. Kusters. He in turn was followed by the present pastor of Gettysburg, Father Francis Dillon.

About this time Holy Rosary Church in Agar was becoming too small to accommodate all the Catholic families. The number of families in Onida too was growing. They came from Onida every Sunday, driving nine miles to the Agar Church. In 1952, Father Dillon enlarged the Agar Church, making it twice as long. The addition helped to solve the problem for awhile.

At the time of the new addition to the Agar Church, the Catholics in Onida began seriously to consider the possibility of obtaining a church of their own. In May of 1954, Father Dillon requested from Bishop Brady, a priest to take over Onida and Agar, as he could not handle Gettysburg and the newly established Radar Air Base. Bishop Brady gave Father Dillon permission to buy property for the purpose of establishing a parish in Onida. On July 20, 1954, the Frank Johnson house and adjoining lots were purchased for a rectory and church site. Bishop Brady promised to send a priest immediately, but due to deaths in the Diocese of Sioux Falls of some senior priests, he was unable to send a priest as soon as promised.

On June 20, 1957, word was received that the Onida Catholics would no longer belong to Gettysburg as a mission, but

would have a new pastor who would reside in Onida. On that day it became a reality, when in filial obedience to his Bishop, and with much wonderment, Father Lawrence Marbach arrived in Onida to begin the task of building a church and organizing the parish as well as administering the churches in Agar and Blunt. Father Marbach lived in the newly purchased rectory in Onida, and said Mass on Sunday in Agar for the Catholic families of Agar and Onida. Mass was also said in the Mission Church in Blunt.

Meanwhile the feasibility of a new church in Onida was studied, but with high building costs, it remained a problem what should be done, although a church was needed desperately. Father Marbach heard that a new Catholic Church had been built in Herreid, S. Dak., 85 miles north of Onida, and the church was large and in good repair. Upon seeing the structure, and with the permission of Bishop Lambert A. Hoch, Bishop of Sioux Falls, plans were made to move the church to Onida. This was done. A basement and foundation were constructed which was to serve as a parish hall. The former Herreid Catholic Church was moved to Onida shortly after the Holidays in 1958, and placed on the newly constructed foundation. Then began the task of making the building into a suitable House of God. Into it went the local artisans, and in due time it did indeed become a suitable House of God. The dream of 30 years of some of the old-timers had become a reality—Onida for the first time had a Catholic Church. Mass was celebrated for the first time in the Church of St. Pius X early in the spring, by Father Lawrence Marbach, and fittingly enough for the first time with the whole parish present on Holy Thursday.

The Catholic families in Onida in having a church of their own have grown up and become of age and can face the future unafraid, for they kept the faith when it was not easy to do so. In this they shared a common bond with Father De Smet, Father Ravoux and those countless pioneer priests and people who made many sacrifices and endured many hardships for the faith, for they knew they carried their treasure in a fragile vessel. The Catholic families in Onida can be justifiably proud of what they have accomplished in a few short years. For

many of them, however, the sacrifices have been many and great, proving once again that the missionary and pioneer spirit that made our country great is with us still. May it never be lost.—L.M.



Holy Cross Lutheran Church (Missouri Synod)

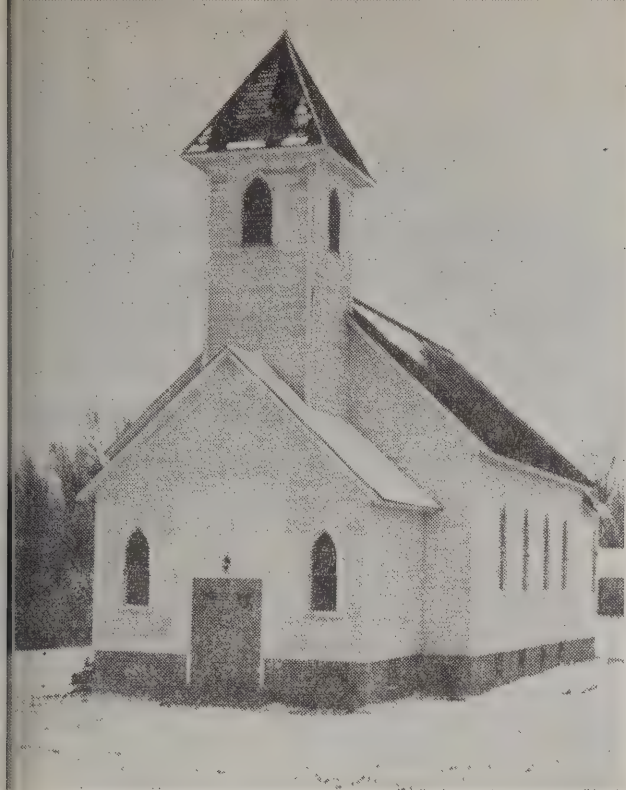
"If we only had a Lutheran Church in Onida." How often these words were repeated by those who traveled to "St. John's" in Agar—the only Lutheran Church in the county.

The Mission Board of the South Dakota District had considered and surveyed Onida as a possible site for a Mission Station. Neighboring pastors of the Missouri Synod canvassed the surrounding area of Onida and the prospects seemed good. No definite steps were taken, although the topic had been considered and discussed.

The Onida people, who attended St. John's Lutheran Church of Agar, suggested to members of the congregation that they wished to conduct services on an experimental basis. The first service was held July 8, 1951, in the basement of the Onida City Auditorium at 8:00 a.m. Thirty-five people were present. Sunday School was also held following the services.

When the members of the Onida Methodist Church heard that the Lutherans held their first service in the auditorium, they offered them the use of their building for a rental fee of ten dollars a month. Lutherans gladly and promptly accepted the offer and services were conducted in the Methodist Church up to the very day that Holy Cross congregation dedicated its own church. Services were held at 8:00 a.m. so as not to interfere with the Methodist time and the Lutheran pastor could take charge of his duties in St. John's Church of Agar and Emmanuel of Gettysburg.

After two months of "experimental services," the Holy Cross Lutheran Church was formally organized on September 14, 1951. Present at that meeting were Ray Bartels, Henry Becker, Ralph Becker, Harold Birdsall, Elton Eller, Alvin Heien, A. Kass, John Neu, Hollie Olson, Vern Palmer and Les Swanson, who were the charter members. A constitution was



Holy Cross Lutheran Church

drawn up by a committee and accepted at the time, and the following were elected as the first officers of the congregation: Elders: Henry Becker, Ralph Becker and Hollie Olson; Trustees: John Neu, chairman; Elton Eller, vice chairman; Les Swanson, secretary, and A. Kass, treasurer; Board of Education: Ray Bartels and Ralph Shoup.

Sunday School was held regularly each Sunday after services and the following were the first regular teachers: Les Swanson, superintendent; Mrs. A. Kass, Mrs. Ralph Becker, Mrs. Henry Becker, Mrs. Hollie Olson and Mr. and Mrs. John Neu.

There were eight members in the senior class, who became the first confirmands of the Holy Cross Lutheran Sunday School. After two years of Saturday instruction the first group of young people confirmed in July, 1953, were Bonnie Becker, Rodney Becker, Vivian Becker, Ellen Johnson, David Merrill, Richard Olson, Donna Palmer and Karen Rivenes. In the fall of 1953, this class of young people became the nucleus of a Junior Bible class. By the summer of 1954, the enrollment had increased to 14 young people. One member of that original class is still attending Bible Class today.

After the formal organization of the

church, the women who were members of the Holy Cross congregation met at the home of Mrs. A. Kass, January 18, 1952. A decision was made at this meeting to organize a Ladies Aid. Charter members were LaVon Becker, Katie Becker, Nada Birdsall, Helen Anderson, Gloria Eller, Lillian Fosness, Pauline Gill, Caroline Hull, Evie Heien, Blanche Kass, Amanda Lawrence, Alvera Merrill, Chester Neumann, Phyllis Neu, Irene Olson, Ethel Palmer, Emelia Rivenes, Edith Rivenes, Opal Rivenes and Irene Swanson. The first officers were LaVon Becker, chairman; Irene Swanson, vice chairman; Phyllis Neu, secretary, and Amanda Lawrence, treasurer.

The Holy Cross Ladies Aid has been an active group in its congregation, for it was through its efforts that the altar was dressed and furniture and equipment added to the church basement.

Less than a year had passed from the time the first services were held that a building program began to be formulated. News reached the congregation that an old Congregational Church building, between Lebanon and Tolstoy could be purchased. A group of men including Rev. Brack investigated this building, which was unused.

The building with its equipment was purchased for \$1,700 on January 27, 1954. A building committee, including John Neu, Ray Bartels, Les Swanson and Orville Rivenes, was instrumental in bringing the dreams and hopes of a Lutheran Church in Onida to a successful reality.

In the fall of 1954 the building was moved into Onida and placed on the present foundation. Finally, what seemed to be an almost insurmountable task was actually completed with minor unfinished areas. Holy Cross congregation rejoiced on Dedication Day, March 13, 1955. Pastor O. D. Brack, who had served the Onida congregation from the beginning, had charge of the dedication services. In the afternoon Festival Services were held with the Rev. Karl Lassanske of Lebanon giving the sermon.

Shortly after Dedication Day, Rev. Brack left the Agar-Onida parish to serve in the Lynwood Lutheran Church of Lynwood, California, where he had accepted a call.

The first baptismal service was performed in May, 1955. Gene, the son of Howard and Helen Weischedel, was bap-

tized by Rev. Eberbach.

The first church wedding ceremony was held the first Sunday in June. Marilyn Larsen of Sioux Falls, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Hans Larsen of Onida and Walter W. Grimes of Hot Springs, son of Alvin Grimes, were married by Rev. Eberbach.

In August, 1955, the Rev. Frederick Skov of Elmhurst, New York, was installed as pastor of the Agar-Onida parish. Rev. Skov served until January of 1958. Again Onida was without its own pastor until Rev. Theodore Klees accepted a call and was installed the following August.

The first group of 35 members on July 8, 1951, has now grown to 112 members. The congregation has three active organizations, a large young people's group (Walther League), Voting Body and the Ladies Aid, affiliated with the L.W.M.L.—I.O.



Emmanuel Mennonite Church

In the late teens, when the dark clouds of World War I were just lifting, a group of hardy German farmers with their families moved from Hutchinson and Beadle Counties to Sully County to try their hand at farming further west. They were men and women with strong religious convictions. They were not afraid to take their stand for God, and could say with the Apostle Paul, "I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth."

They had a burning desire to get together for united worship. Without a church building and with little time and limited finances, they decided they must meet in some other building. It was in the spring of 1919 that they started regular worship in a Buffalo Township schoolhouse that was situated at the corner just south of the Tony Schmitgen farm. The first worship service was held by Rev. J. M. Tschetter of Carpenter, South Dakota. Jacob Entz, Sr., was superintendent of the Sunday School at that time. During the months that followed, various ones preached with much of this ministry being carried on by the laymen from the congregation. Among these was Jacob S. G. Hofer, who brought many stirring messages from the Word of God. Mr. Hofer was the first



Emmanuel Mennonite Church

deacon to be ordained for life into this vital capacity of the church, and it was through his deep spiritual vision that the church was started.

About a year after the services were begun in the Buffalo schoolhouse, the group moved their services to a schoolhouse two miles south of the Noah Fritz farm. This location was not too suitable, for it was rather low ground, and whenever rain came it developed almost into a quagmire of mud. To keep their neatly dressed families from becoming muddled up, the fathers drove their horse-drawn wagons and buggies right up alongside the porch of the schoolhouse. No weather was too severe for church to be held, for if cars could not be used, horse-drawn wagons and buggies were put back into service.

The first baptismal service was held at the dam in the pasture of Jacob S. G. Hofer in the fall of 1920. In the years that followed a baptismal service was held almost every year with many radiant Christians joining the ranks of the church, where they could worship the Lord together in one united body.

It was in the fall of 1921 that the congregation decided to build their own church building. Under the able carpentering supervision of Jacob S. G. Hofer and the energetic help of church members, the simple frame structure was built on its present location six miles east of Onida. This was the permanent beginning of the Emmanuel Mennonite Church, under the K.M.B. Conference.

Under the musical leadership of such men as Jacob S. G. Hofer, Jacob D. Goosen, and Jacob A. Tschetter, the congregation was led in beautiful singing, while a choir, quartets, trios, and

other groups were organized to bring special numbers that added real inspiration to the worship services.

The first young man from the church to be married was Joe Pollman of Blunt.

The youth work was not neglected, for almost immediately after the church was started the Christian Endeavor was organized. This has continued to be an active young people's work in presenting well-planned and deeply spiritual monthly programs. Along with Christian Endeavor groups from other churches in the Conference, they have maintained an open missionary vision in helping with mission projects both at home and abroad.

The first regular pastor to serve the church was the Rev. D. J. S. Mendel. He came from Kansas to serve the Lord for 15 years as the faithful, deeply devoted shepherd of the Emmanuel Church. It was in 1935 that he resigned and moved to Doland. Then there followed a period of five years in which there was no regular pastor. Rev. Simon Unruh served for six months during that time. Otherwise the church was served by laymen and visiting speakers. Some of the laymen who brought messages were Jacob S. G. Hofer, S. S. Glanzer, Gottlieb Miller, and others. Some of the outside speakers were Rev. John Tschetter and Rev. J. M. Tschetter, both from near Huron, and Martin McGuire from Onida. Mr. McGuire filled the pulpit quite regularly during the years of 1938 and 1939 until a regular pastor was secured.

It was in August of 1936 that a rather serious incident happened to the church building. After a hot summer afternoon dark clouds rolled up from the west that carried in their turbulent mass a sinister funnel-shaped cloud. It darted out from its dark rolling curtain, picked up the church, and spun it an exact quarter turn so that the front of the church was facing south instead of west. It required a great deal more time and effort by man to turn the church around and place it back on its foundation than for the tornado to turn it gingerly about.

In the spring of 1940 the Rev. Edwin F. Walter, who had shortly before graduated from Moody Bible Institute in Chicago, accepted the call to the Emmanuel Church. Rev. and Mrs. Walter lovingly and untiringly served their Lord and His people for 13 years. This church

with its wide field of service presented a real challenge to them. One of the first changes to be made to serve more effectively a wider group of people was to swing from German-speaking to English-speaking services. During those 13 years that followed the membership grew from 44 to 113.

The church, especially under the leadership and preaching of Rev. Walter, developed a real missionary vision for giving and going. Earlier years had seen several folk—Joe E. Wipf, Dorothy Kleinsasser Erickson, and Abe Becker—go into full-time service for the Lord; but during the 13 years of Rev. Walter's ministry, six young folk were sent out to the foreign mission field. They included Mr. and Mrs. Jim Lomheim to Brazil, Helen D. Vetter to Nigeria, Africa, Alice Wipf Ontjes to Jamaica, and Rev. and Mrs. Merle Bloom to Southern Rhodesia, Africa.

The missionary vision struck fire under the ladies of the church. Mrs. Walter invited members to come to her home in October of 1941 for the purpose of discussing a missionary society. Eight of the ladies came. On January 21, 1942, the official organizational meeting was held. The Good Deed Circle was chosen for a name, officers were elected, and five resolutions made to guide the ladies in their work. As time progressed, more time was spent in working with the hands, such as making quilts, rolling bandages, and other projects. The ladies held a program once a year to acquaint the church with what they were doing, and an offering was taken at that time to help them with their missionary work. By the end of 1958, the active members had grown to 26.

On August 9, 1953, a farewell service was given in the Onida Auditorium in honor of Rev. and Mrs. Walter, who accepted a call in Hutchinson, Kansas.

Again the congregation was faced with the need of calling a pastor. The Lord wonderfully undertook for them in sending Rev. and Mrs. Eli L. Hofer of St. Paul, Minnesota. On August 30, 1953, a lovely welcoming service was held in the church for Rev. and Mrs. Hofer. Again the church was blessed with a consecrated, loving, and deeply spiritual couple who was concerned about the salvation of souls and the spiritual growth of believers. For five years they faithfully served this parish with many new members being added to

the church. In the early summer of 1958 the congregation was shocked by the announcement of Rev. Hofer that they felt the Lord would have them give up their ministry at Emmanuel Church and return to St. Paul, Minnesota. Under the earnest plea of the people they consented to stay until the close of 1958. Then on December 28 a farewell service was held at the church in their honor.

Once again the Emmanuel Church faced the problem of calling a pastor. They have earnestly sought the Lord's leading and the Council has made many contacts, but as this history goes to press, no pastor has yet been secured.—D.V.



Open Bible Standard Church

The Open Bible Standard Church dates back to 1938, when Violet Le La Cheur held meetings in the building which had formerly been the old M. E. Church and at that time was owned by the Ladies Social Circle of Onida.

In the fall of 1945 the building was purchased from the Social Circle, and the Church was organized. Rev. Billie Willard, who was pastor of the Pierre Open Bible Church, came to Onida every Sunday afternoon for about a year to hold services until Lyle Schuler became the first full-time pastor in August of 1946. Sunday



Open Bible Standard Church

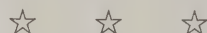
School was organized at that time, and also a Ladies' Missionary Society. A full basement was constructed under the church.

Rev. Schuler was succeeded by Rev. Frank Barnhart. At this time the church was remodeled considerably, and class rooms added to the basement.

From then on to the present time, pastors served in the following order: Rev. Glen Duncan, Rev. Philip Bennett, Rev. Don Smith, Rev. Earl Jones, Rev. Clarence Le La Cheur, Rev. Charles Ridinger, who is pastor at the time of this writing in April of 1959.

During the year of 1958-59, considerable remodeling was again done—two rooms were added to the parsonage, new seats, interior decorating, and a new pulpit in the church.

The Missionary Society is still active, meetings being held once a month.—A.J.M.



First Presbyterian Church

The first religious service in Onida was held at the Onida Hotel on May 27, 1883, with 42 people present, including the minister and the babies. Mrs. Frank Brigham played the organ in the lobby of the hotel, and the Rev. N. H. Axtell, from the Methodist Church in Kankakee, Illinois, preached the sermon.

The following Sunday, the Rev. William G. Poor conducted the service with 77 people in attendance. A Sunday School was organized following the service with Wallace Lilly chosen as superintendent. Five classes were formed with the following teachers: Rev. Poor, young men's class; J. M. Moore, Bible class; Mrs. Brigham, ladies' class; Mrs. Lilly, young girls' class, and Mrs. Allen Starke, young boys' class.

In the spring of 1884, when the Onida schoolhouse was completed, church services were conducted in the school building for several years. The schoolhouse stood about where the Frank Erp Filling Station is now located. Ministers from various denominations conducted the services for several years, as there was no formal church organization until 1889.

On October 27, 1889, Dr. H. P. Carson, Synodical Missionary of the Presbyterian Church, came to Onida in response to a petition presented to the Presbytery

of Central Dakota, requesting the organization of a Presbyterian Church in Onida. The Rev. T. J. Gray was empowered by the Presbytery to organize the church. He invited Elder William C. Grier of the Presbyterian Church of Blunt, and the Rev. Carson to assist. These three men met with the congregation in the schoolhouse and at this meeting the First Presbyterian Church of Onida, Sully County, Dakota Territory, was organized. Elders for the newly organized church were Levans Livingstone, Edward Barber and Nathan Porter. The Onida and Blunt churches shared the same pastor.

In 1897, the Rev. J. P. Williamson, who had graduated that year from the Theological Seminary of Princeton University, began his ministry in Onida and remained here about three years. Arrangements were made in 1898 to meet in the Baptist Church. In 1900, Rev. Williamson and his wife, Addie, left Onida to take over the pastorate at Kimball, South Dakota.

From 1900 to 1916, the Presbyterian and Methodist Churches operated on a federated basis, with Presbyterian and Methodist ministers alternating every two

years. Several Baptist families had moved into the area and the services of a Baptist minister had been procured, so the Presbyterians and Methodists held their services in the Methodist Church, which is today the Open Bible Church. Besides morning and evening services, there were Sunday School, Missionary Societies, Young Peoples meeting and mid-week prayer services.

Both churches had their choirs and the church program was quite complete, but Mrs. Edward Barber thought there should be something more for the children. So with the help of Minnie Livingstone and several teenage girls, she inaugurated a program in 1922 far ahead of its time in scope and effectiveness. Steps were taken to organize a Young People's Society and more than 30 enthusiastic young people attended the first meeting. There was no restriction on creed and the children loved it. They listened to Bible stories, learned Bible verses, sang songs, played games and made hand work. Officers of this group were Wright McConnell, president; Marjorie Brown, vice president; Margaret Johnson, secretary, and



Onida Women's Missionary Society About 1900. Pictured back row, left to right—Mrs. M. B. Knight, Jessie Livingstone, Mrs. Edward Barber, Mrs. Eldridge Garner and Mrs. J. N. Garner. Middle row, left to right—Mrs. Haakon Persson, Mrs. Cowan, Mrs. Livingston and Mrs. H. E. Kimmel. Foreground—Minnie Porter.

Anna M. Courtney, treasurer. The little red chairs used in the Presbyterian Church today were purchased for this group and financed by candy sales and ice cream socials. Nobody had heard of a church budget in those days.

From October 1911, to November 1913, the Rev. Williamson worked here again, and from 1913 to 1915, the church was served by a Methodist minister, the Rev. George Quayle, an uncle of Earl Hardwick. By 1914, the Baptists had given up, this time for good, and some time later the Presbyterians started having services in their building. The Methodist organization also disbanded and the Social Circle purchased the Methodist building for \$500.00 for a Primary Sunday School and Community building.

Rev. William Bullock and his family moved to Onida in 1916, and served the church for two years, followed by the Rev. S. Brise Cook from 1918 until 1922.

A Women's Missionary Society of the Presbyterian Church was organized in January, 1921, which was an outgrowth of an increased interest in missionary study among the ladies. Officers elected were Mrs. E. E. Brooking, president; Mrs. C. H. Gall, vice president; Mrs. C. D. Jack, secretary; Mrs. W. W. Warner, treasurer, and Mrs. S. B. Cook, secretary of literature and missionary classes.

The Rev. F. W. Thompson served the church from 1922 until 1927. A manse was purchased in 1923. The Rev. J. P. Williamson commenced work here again in June of 1927 and continued to serve the church for 10 years until he retired

from the ministry in June, 1937. In that year, the Rev. George Clarke, a bachelor from Ireland, took up his duties as pastor and served four years. During the summer of 1941, Rollyn Morison, a student from McCormick Seminary, served as minister. The Rev. and Mrs. Brough came in the fall of 1942, and were here two years.

The Rev. Edwin Walter, who was minister of the Mennonite Church, six miles east of town, agreed to take over the preaching services until such time as a regular pastor could be obtained. He served until May, 1946, when the Rev. and Mrs. Denley Ganfield came. The manse, which had been rented for several years, was vacated for a short time and during that time was repaired and redecorated.

Almost immediately a church building program was launched. An unused Presbyterian church building from Hitchcock was purchased and moved onto a lot on lower Main Street. The old Baptist church building was cut in half and moved on the same lot, one-half becoming the present annex and the other half the choir room. The building committee was composed of Frank Johnson, Ergo Hull and Luther Nelson. Much work remained yet to be done when services were resumed in the fall of 1947. Wanda Mauree Day was the first bride to be married in the new church.

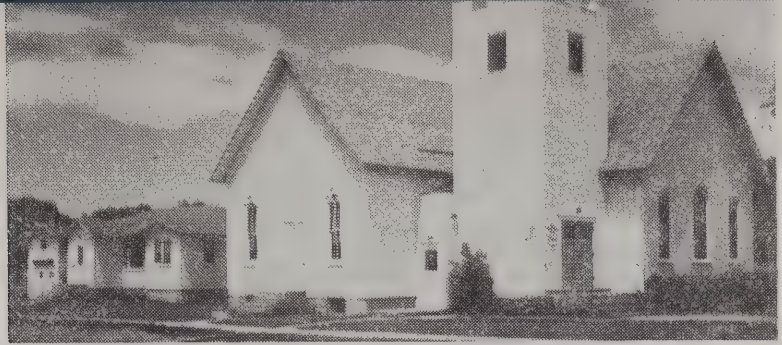
Impressive dedication services were held on March 30, 1948, in connection with Presbytery which met there the following day. Following a church supper, Dr. George F. McDougall, president of

Social Circle About 1912.

Pictured back row, left to right—Mrs. J. N. Garner, Mrs. J. P. Williamson, Mrs. D. W. Hyde, Minnie Livingstone, Mrs. R. J. Courtney, Mrs. P. Kendall, Mrs. Edward Barber, Mrs. Robert Garner, Mrs. Bert Lilly, Mrs. L. Livingstone and Mrs. C. R. Garner. Middle row—Grace Spencer and Audrey Garner. Front row, left to right—Danforth Williamson, Alice Jordan and Elva Hyde.



First Presbyterian Church
and new manse to the left.



Huron College, presided at the ceremonies. The Rev. Joseph Andrew, of Miller, delivered the sermon, and several ministers of Huron Presbytery participated in the services. Music was furnished by the church choir with Mrs. Earl Hardwick as pianist. Soloists were Mrs. Minnie Zimmer and Miss Grace Haverly.

In 1948, a beautiful stained glass window was installed in the east wall of the church as a memorial of Jesse P. Williamson. Some time later two smaller windows were installed, one on either side of the Williamson window. They were purchased with money donated as memorials and dedicated to those early pioneers who labored unceasingly to establish and maintain a church. Leo A. Temmey, prominent lawyer of Huron and son of a pioneer family in Sully County, was the speaker when they were dedicated. Since then three other stained glass windows have replaced the old ones on the north wall. These are personal memorials with the names of the individuals inscribed.

Rev. Ganfield left in 1952, and the church was without a minister for several months. However, the congregation was fortunate in obtaining the services of Rev. L. Hume Ward, of the Miller church, who consented to conduct services in Onida on Sunday evenings. This he did from 1952 until 1954, and during that time the membership of the church increased from 133 to 190.

Then the Rev. Sylvan K. Williams, of Philip, received a call from the church and he and his wife, Laura, and daughter, Judy, came here for about three years, when they received a call from the Presbyterian Church in Lead where they are at the present time. During the time that the Williams were in Onida, many improvements were made, the most important being the new manse. Open house was held on February 27, 1955. Also, an annex was built in the basement of the church and a new furnace in-

stalled. The membership increased from 190 to 247 during that time.

The present minister is the Rev. Charles Ray Freuden, of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He and his wife, Joyce, and young son, Carl, are now very much at home in Onida. The membership at the close of 1958 was 270.

The Missionary Society and the Young Women's Guild united and the church now has an organized Association and five Circles, with a membership of about 70.

In 1954, the General Assembly of the church met in Los Angeles, California, and at that time Elder Luther Nelson represented the church and Presbytery. In June of that year, Mrs. Luther Nelson represented the church at the National Presbyterian Women's Convention held at Purdue University in Indianapolis, Indiana. Again in 1958, Mrs. Henry Smith and Mrs. John Sutton, Sr., attended the convention as delegates from the Onida church. In 1956, John Sutton, Jr., was delegated to attend the National Council of Presbyterian Men held in Chicago, and upon his return he, with the assistance of Rev. Williams, organized a Men's Club.

Each summer the church sends a good percentage of its young people to church camps. A Bible school is held each spring shortly after school closes, with the minister's wife, several adult teachers and young girls carrying out the school's planned curriculum.

The music department of the church has always been very active and for the past several years Mrs. Maynard Knox and son, Parker, have provided the music for church services. The church also has two choirs, the adult choir directed by Mrs. Jack Donahue, and the junior choir directed by Mrs. Freuden.

The 1958 officers are Earl Baxter and John Sutton, Sr., elders; Harold Currier and Albin Stahl, trustees, and Mrs. Earl Kinder and Mrs. Preston Starbuck, deacons.

ONIDA'S MOST BELOVED MINISTER

Dr. Jesse P. Williamson

Dr. and Mrs. J. P. Williamson, whose lives are closely identified with the development and life of the First Presbyterian Church of Onida, have a definite place in the history of Sully County.

Jesse P. Williamson was born at Greenwood, South Dakota, on March 19, 1872 and passed away on November 22, 1941. His father, Rev. John P. Williamson, had come to South Dakota as a missionary with the Indians when they were banished in 1863, and spent the rest of his life in missionary work with them.



Jesse P. Williamson

Jesse attended school near Greenwood, entering Pierre University in 1884. They found it difficult to classify this boy of 12 whose education had been so thorough in some fields and so sketchy in others. The later attended Yankton College, graduating in 1891. Somewhat later he attended the Theological Seminary of Princeton University, graduating in 1897. His first pastorate was Onida, which he served from November 1, 1897 to April 1, 1900, when he went to Kimball. In June of 1900, he was married to Addie Jordan, oldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. D. Q. Jordan, pioneers of Onida and Sully County.

In 1911 they returned to serve the Federated Church of Onida for two years. A daughter, Lois, was born during this time. She and an older brother, Danforth, were their only children.

In 1913 the family followed him to Santee, Nebraska, where he became superintendent of the theological department of the Indian Training School of that place. He resigned this position in the fall of 1917 to carry on his father's work, the elder Williamson having died. Later he became General Superintendent of the Indian work for the Presbyterian Church.

In 1927 the Williamsons returned to Onida. Rev. Williamson served as pastor of the Onida Community Church until January 1937, when he retired from the ministry. Both of the Williamsons were musical and they showed their talents generously. Mrs. Williamson's frail health

sometimes curtailed her activities, but her courageous spirit was an inspiration to all who came in contact with her. Sorrow came into the home with the death of daughter Lois. Honors came, too. Yankton College conferred on Dr. Williamson the honorary title of Doctor of Divinity as part of their commencement services in June of 1934. Huron College offered him the same honor, but he modestly declined to accept the second honorary degree.

From 1937 until his death in 1941, Dr. Williamson served the county as clerk of courts. Ill health plagued him for several years and he suffered much from a nervous disorder, brought on by hardening of the arteries. Death came at Yankton in November of 1941. His funeral was a memorable occasion. Dignitaries from Huron College, old family friends such as the Riggs, church officials from all over the state, and local friends filled the church to capacity and overflowed into the street where they sat in their cars during the service. The following is taken from the obituary in the November 22, 1941, issue of the Onida Watchman: "No man could have served a church more faithfully than did Dr. Williamson. His time and his energy were at the disposal of any who needed them. More than one older person has been cared for in the Williamson home, and more than one young senior has received help. There are in Sully County hundreds of people who remember with gratitude and appreciation the kindly services of Dr. Williamson. When death came into a home, he was never too occupied to go into the bereaved home and offer what comfort and help he was able to, whether that family's name appeared on his church roll or not."

Dr. and Mrs. J. P. Williamson were invited as special guests at a Centennial celebration at LacQuiParle, Minnesota. In 1835, Dr. Williamson's grandparents landed there as the first white missionaries to the Sioux Indians. Closely connected with the Williamson family as benefactors to the Sioux were the Riggs families of Pierre and Oahe on the Missouri River. Dr. Riggs, Sr., and Dr. Williamson were the last survivors of the missionary children born in LacQuiParle. They were invited by the Presbyterian Missionary Society of Minnesota.

Lodges and Organizations

American Legion, Sully Post, No. 79

The Grand Army of the Republic, U. S. Grant Post, No. 95, was such a great inspiration and help to the boys of World War I, that it would be folly not to mention it at the beginning of the Legion history. George Pierce, the last survivor of the G.A.R., passed away on November 25, 1932.

The national organization of the American Legion was formed in the spring of 1919, and in September, of that year, a meeting of ex-soldiers, sailors and marines in this area was held in the Coquillette building (Fosness Cleaners) for the purpose of organizing a local Post. About 50 eligible servicemen attended the meeting and after reaching a decision to apply for a charter, a discussion was held to select an appropriate name for the organization. As Sully County was named for one of the army's famous generals, General Alfred Sully, it was deemed proper to use the name Sully Post. On September 18, another meeting was held

in the Serbousek building (originally Dunlap Hall), at which time election of officers was held and a permanent organization established. Officers elected were Clinton J. Crandall, post commander; Forrest J. Eager, vice commander; Maynard A. Knox, post adjutant; Albert F. Schriever, post finance officer; Earl Q. Hardwick, historian; Sig Severson, Frank C. Hyde, Francis L. Stringer and Robert L. Nelson, executive committee.

On September 29, 1919, a permanent charter was issued to Sully Post, No. 79, American Legion Department of South Dakota, Onida, South Dakota. Charter members, besides the officers and executive committee, included Lew J. Drasky, Clyde Bloom, George R. Harvey, Frank Moushke, John McGuire, John E. Fanton, J. Ford Cole, Al E. Byrum, George Gerlach, Ralph J. Spaid, Edwin Fanton, Jr., Earl J. Becker, Ralph D. Lister, John Halverson, Russell Rilling, Anthony C. Etzkorn, Daniel C. Berg, Sam M. Harvey, W. E. Sheffer, Jess Grove, Charles O. Telford, George E. Becker, Louis C. Spaid, Scott



Sully County's Last G. A. R. Members. Pictured left to right—George Pierce, Henry Spencer, George Fisher, Benjamin Nelson, A. G. Benedict and J. N. Garner.

Sully Post No. 79, Drum and Bugle Corps and Band. Pictured left to right—Earl Hardwick, bass drum, bari-tone, bugle and cymbal; M. R. Keck, snare drum, first bugle and trombone; "Paddy" Holm, snare drum, second bugle and trumpet, and L. A. Fosness, snare drum, tenor bugle and alto.



Emeigh, Jacob H. Wagner and Edmund S. McConnell.

The first money raised for Sully Post No. 79, was derived from a dance held on September 26, 1919, in the Dr. Hart garage building north of the courthouse. Sully Post Legion Track Relays were sponsored for several years, beginning in 1926, for the benefit of high schools in central South Dakota. Those relays netted the Post a small amount of money, but were carried out mainly for the purpose of good fellowship and community welfare. Beginning in 1929 the Post established an annual fall entertainment called, "Roarin' Gulch." Four home talent plays were presented over a period of years, and unforgettable were the Legion rabbit hunts, pheasant hunts and the amateur hour at the Sully County Fair. The Legion frequently had charge of the bowery dances held at the annual county fair.

In 1930 Sully Post organized a four-man drum corps and band. This little outfit, dressed in the Continental uniform of 1776, under the leadership of Marvin R. Keck, was sent to the National Convention of the American Legion held in Boston, Massachusetts, that year and received national recognition for their novelty

and unique playing ability. They performed at the Nation's Capitol and White House for President Hoover. In 1933 they attended the World's Fair and National Legion Convention in Chicago, and went to every state convention from 1930 through 1934 and won first place the last four years in the Class "B" division. In 1931 they were special guests of Department Commander Carroll H. Lockhart, at the North Dakota Department Convention at Valley City, North Dakota.

Past Commander Hardwick conceived the idea of organizing a club of past commanders and arranged a meeting in the basement of the Brabec Cafe on the eve of November 10, 1936. A banquet was served by Mrs. Hazel Brabec.

The local Post has carried out many activities for the welfare of the community such as members delivering Christmas baskets to needy families filled with a complete Christmas dinner for the family with candy, nuts and toys for the children; marking veterans' graves; planting memorial trees; assisting in building Lake Sully, and sponsoring Boys State, Boy Scout troops, Cub Scouts and Junior baseball. About \$20,000 worth of donated feed from various Legion Posts through-



Past Commanders, Sully Post No. 79. Pictured back row, left to right—Charles Danks, Timothy Hull, John W. Day, Robert Clausen, Russell Hoover, Robert Demery, Ray Bartels and Wilbur Hofer. Middle row, left to right—Wilbur M. Day, Howard A. Weischedel, Jacob G. Hofer, Earl Q. Hardwick, Preston Starbuck, Maynard P. Green, Sheldon Bright, commander, and Arthur J. Owens, Fort Pierre Post. Front row, left to right—Carl Kelly, Alton E. Lewis, J. M. Reedy, G. C. Reynolds, Leo A. Temmey, Walter G. Abbott, Max Rodman, Maynard A. Knox and Louis A. Fosness.

out Iowa, Nebraska and Minnesota was distributed by a Sully Post feed committee during the severe fall and winter of 1931-32, with the help of WNAX radio station and the railroads, who hauled this feed free of charge. The result was—no stock lost for want of feed. The Post was complimented by the St. Louis office of the National Red Cross. In 1950 two Legionnaires, Fosness and Nelson, were successful in obtaining Dr. Alfreds Rimsa, M.D. and his wife, Milda Rimsa, M.D. for Onida and the community, and the Post purchased an X-ray machine for the Onida Community Hospital the following year.

In 1957 a Legion home was pur-

chased from Legionnaire J. M. Reedy which is located on the northwest corner of block three, original Onida. Here the Legion and Auxiliary hold their meetings on the second Thursday of each month.

Included in the Unit is Legionnaire Col. Henry A. Smith, Commanding officer of the 147th Field Artillery Corps, Senior Tactical Commander, South Dakota National Guard.

Wilbur M. Hofer, a Korean veteran, received state recognition and a Go-Getter trophy for signing up the highest percentage of Post quota memberships for the year 1957, and Sheldon Bright received the State Legion trophy for the outstand-

PAST COMMANDERS SULLY POST NO. 79

Symbols: (D) deceased; (I) World War I; (II) World War II; (K) Korean

Year	Commander				
1919	Clinton J. Crandall	ID	1933	Leroy Teets	I
1920	Charles O. Telford	ID	1934	George R. Cooper	ID
1921	Charles D. Jack	ID	1935	Louis A. Fosness	I
1922	Charles D. Jack	ID	1936	Clarence R. Brabec	I
1923	A. F. Schriever	I	1937	Garrett C. Reynolds	I
1924	Maynard Knox	I	1938	Walter G. Abbott	I
1925	Albert F. Scheffer	I	1939	Joseph G. Hofer	I
1926	James Nystrom	I	1940	Sig Severson	ID
1927	J. M. Reedy	I	1941	Wilbur M. Day	I
1928	Earl Q. Hardwick	I	1942	Charles Earl Miller	I
1929	Wesley C. Jordan	ID	1943	Harold Murray	ID
1930	Marvin R. Keck	I	1944	Howard A. Weischedel	I
1931	Charles B. Knox	I	1945	Alton E. Lewis	I
1932	Charles W. Nattress	I	1946	Carl Kelly	I
			1947	Max Rodman	I
			1948	John W. Day	II
			1949	Maynard Green	II
			1950	Robert Mikkelsen	II
			1951	John Neu	II
			1952	Russell Hoover	II
			1953	Wayne Nelson	II
			1954	Charles Danks	II
			1955	Ray Bartels	II
			1956	C. T. Hull	II
			1956	Preston Starbuck	II
			1957	Robert Clausen	II
			1958	Wilbur Hofer	K
			1959	Robert Demery	II

1958 MEMBERSHIP, SULLY POST NO. 79

Symbols: World War I (I); World War II (II) Korean Conflict (K)

Prepared by Sheldon Bright, Post Adjutant

Abbott, W. G.	I	Heien, Alvin	II	Peterson, David	K
Ahrendt, Benhard	II	Heintz, Kenneth	II	Phares, Gay	II
Anderson, Dennis	II	Hickox, T. M.	I	Pierce, Stanley	II
Allison, Alvin	K	Hiller, Marvin	K	Porter, Robert	K
Bartels, Dale	II	Hines, Willard	I	Plumb, Sybil	II
Bartels, Ray	II	Hofer, Jacob G.	I		
Bayne, Ervin	K	Hofer, Joseph G.	I	Ramler, Paul	II
Bayne, Ira	II	Hofer, Jacob S.	II	Reedy, Jack	I
Becker, George	I	Hofer, Joe S.	I	Reynolds, Garrett C.	I
Becker, Henry	I	Hofer, Wilbur	K	Ripley, Elmer	II
Baxter, Earl	II	Hofer, Leroy	K	Ripley, Ralph D., Jr.	K
Beebe, Wilbur	II	Hofer, Kenneth	K	Ripley, Walter	I
Biley, Virgil	II	Hoover, Russell	II	Rodman, Max	I
Bright, Sheldon	II	Hughart, John	II	Ryan, Joseph G.	I
Bronson, Don	II	Huse, Kenneth	II	Ruckle, Calvin	II
Bruegel, Frank	II	Hyde, Frank	I		
Buol, Buell V.	K	Huse, Conrad	II	Sack, Frank J.	I
Buol, Willis	K	Hyde, Owen	K	Schaeffer, John	II
Bush, Emmett	II	Hyde, Orville	II	Schmitgen, Theodore	II
Byrum, Elliott	K	Johnson, Robert	K	Schmitgen, Alvin	K
				Schriever, Albert F.	I
Carr, Lyman	II			Serbousek, Lumer	II
Carroll, Larry	K	Kellogg, Leroy	II	Serbousek, William	II
Cass, James	K	Kelly, Carl	I	Schumacher, Marvin	II
Chamberlain, LaVonne	II	Kiker, Theo	K	Shoup, Bert	I
Clausen, Robert	II	Kimball, Roy E.	K	Sack, Paul	II
Clouse, Durrell	I	Kinder, Earl	II	Silbaugh, John	II
Corcoran, Burl	II	Klingbeil, Rudolph	II	Smith, Henry, Jr.	II
Crabtree, Eugene	II	Klix, Eddie	I	Smith, Marvin	II
Crandall, James	II	Knox, Charles B.	I	Spaid, Louis O.	I
Cunningham, Clayton	II	Knox, Maynard A.	I	Spaid, Ralph	I
		Koenig, Robert	II	Spaid, Robert	K
Danks, Charles	II	Koerner, Robert	II	Spears, William D.	K
Davis, Harold	II			Stahl, Albin	K
Davis, Grayson	II	Larson, Hans	I	Stahl, Willard	II
Davis, Melvin	II	Larson, Arthur	I	Stahl, Francis	II
Dalton, Floyd	II	Lawrence, Darry	K	Starbuck, Francis	II
Donahue, Jack	II	Leesman, William	II	Starbuck, Preston	II
Day, Gordon	I	Leiser, Tony	K	Stoll, Willard	I
Day, John	II	Lehmkuhl, Elmer	II	Sutton, John E.	K
Day, Wilber,	I	Lewis, Alton E.	I		
Demery, Robert	II	Lomheim, Clarence	II	Thompson, E. L.	II
DeSautell, Clifford,	K			Thompson, L. S.	I
		Malloy, Pat	I	Traxinger, Herman	II
Ebert, Lyle	II	Marse, Art	II	Trumble, Albert	I
Eldridge, Robert	II	Marso, Terry	K	Trythall, William	II
Eldridge, Joe	II	Martin, Larry	K		
Ellis, Walter	II	McKeehan, R. D.	K	Uhl, Dale	II
		Meyers, Melvin	II	Unruh, Harvey	II
Fanton, Edwin	I	Meyers, Nick	II		
Fosness, Louis A.	I	McClure, Jack	II	Varcoe, Fred	I
Foth, Stanley	II	Maskovitch, Mike	II	Venner, Arthur	I
Fox, Winfred	II	Mayes, Lawrence	II		
		Menninger, Herman	K	Walsh, Frank	II
Galinat, John	II	Minder, David	K	Weischedel, Charles	I
Galinat, Walter	II	Mikkelsen, Robert	II	Weischedel, Fred	I
Galinat, Leonard	I	Mileusnich, George	K	Weischedel, Gerald	II
Garrett, Vernon	II	Miller, Charles Earl	I	Weischedel, Howard A.	I
Genzler, Martin	II	Miller, Charles Edward	II	Weischedel, Howard R.	II
Genzler, Emil	K	Miller, John	II	Weischedel, Jake	K
Gluhm, Herman	I	Miller, Raymond	II	Waldner, Maynard	K
Gluhm, Wilbur	II	Misterek, Edward	I	Wagner, Harold	I
Green, Maynard	II	Mosiman, Alfred	II	Waite, Harrison N.	I
Green, Willis	II	Mosiman, Elmer	II	West, Harold	II
Greenan, Joe	II	Meyers, Norman	K	West, Wendell	II
Griffin, Peter	I			Williamson, Larry	K
Glanzer, Samuel	II	Nelson, Wayne	II	Westphal, Marvin	II
Goldhammer, Marlyn	II	Nueman, Chester	II	Wood, Cecil	I
Gross, Benny J.	II	Nueman, John	II	Wood, Harold	II
Groseclose, Richard	II	Neihoff, Rueben	II	Wright, Marion	II
Hale, Allen	II	Osborn, Arthur	K	Yackley, Richard	K
Hardwick, Earl Q.	I	Otey, William	II	Yeager, Hilmer	I
Heasley, Wilson	I	Owens, Arthur J.	I	Young, James	II
				Zebroski, Richard	K

ing Legionnaire of 1958.

The first and paramount issue of the American Legion is to care for its disabled, widows and orphans. Max Rodman, county service officer, has this responsibility, with the assistance of fellow

Legionnaires.

Legionnaires on the Selective Service System, Board No. 1, Sully County, include G. C. Reynolds, Maynard Green, Emel Johnson, and L. A. Fosness, Appeal Agent.

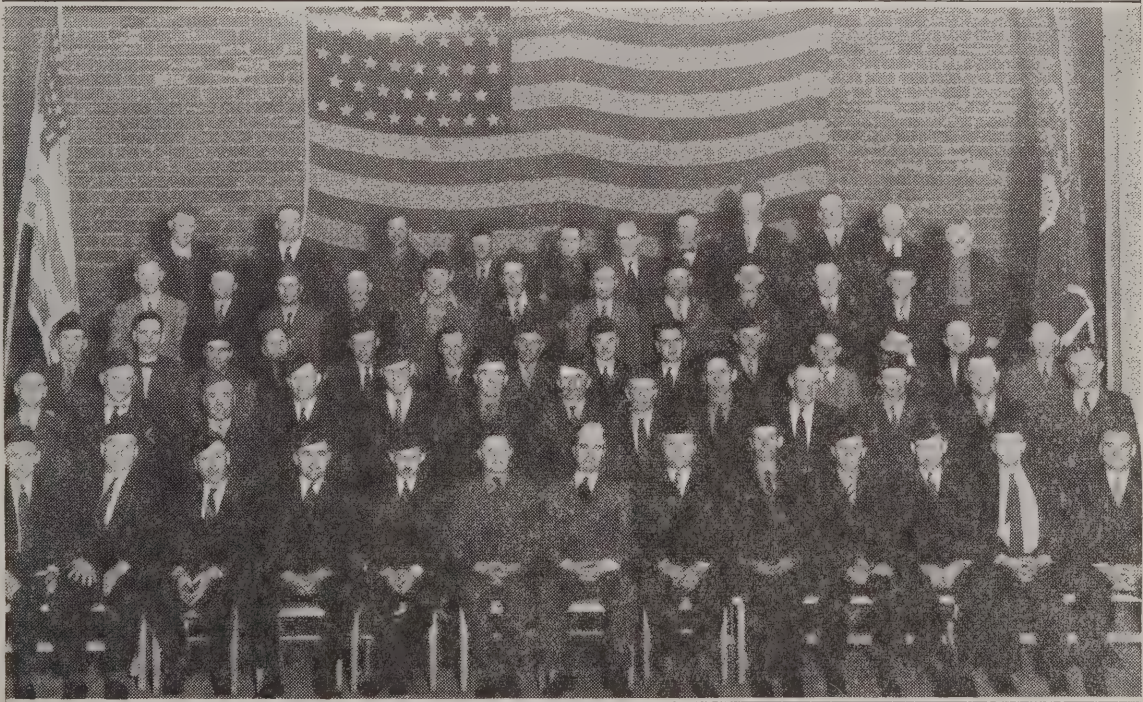
DECEASED VETERANS IN SULLY COUNTY CEMETERIES

Symbol (A) Agar; (Ok) Okobojo; (Ft.S) Fort Sully; (M) Memory marker only

Civil War		Putnam, Frank M.	Ok	Eager, Forrest	
Agar, Charles H.		Pierce, George		Flood, Emil	
Benedict, Andrew		Snauffer, J. H.		Fanton, John E.	
Clark, John M.	Ft.S	Sequin, Morris		Gustafson, Phillip	
Donor, Thomas		Sheppard, W. H.		Huffman, Elmer	
Dunlap, Robert		Seward, Jacob		Jordan, Wesley C.	
Fisher, George		Squire, Ezra		Lemon, Harley	
Green, John J.		Teare, William H.		Sammons, Arlie	
Green, John S.	Ok	Towle, Richard	Ok	Serbousek, Robert	A
Clark, John M.		Wiggins, Minor		Severson, Sigfried	
Glessner, John W.	Ok	Spanish War		Wagner, Jacob	
Haverly, Madison		Drasky, J. J.		Weischedel, Daniel	
Henderson, G. H.		Green, William	Ok	Yeager, Horace	
Jackson, Abraham		Goddard, David		World War II	
Johnston, William J.		Goddard, James		Goddard, Frank O.	
Joiner, John A.		World War I		Hunsley, Maurice E.	
McClure, J. M.		Avery, William		Hyde, Neil	M
Nelson, Benjamin		Barber, Francis		Westphal, Eugene	M
Porter, J. M.		Bunch, Ivan	Ok	Korean	
O'Connor, Haines		Callanan, George		Goosen, Leroy	
		Dorsey, J. J.		Sack, Louis	A

WORLD WAR II BOYS FROM SULLY COUNTY KILLED IN ACTION

Name	Rank and Serial Number	Theatre
Culey, Donald	Pfc. 37 546 843	European
Forrest, Leonard	Pfc. 37 467 515	European
Glessner, Henry C.	Pvt. 6 543 754	European
Jones, Victor B.	Av. Ordm. 2nd Class	U. S. Navy
Hyde, Neil	Sgt. 37 551 252	Mindinao-Pacific
Lehmkuhl, Merle E.	Pfc. 37 114 897	Leythe-Pacific
Westphal, Eugene	Pfc. 37 307 878	India
Goosen, Leroy	Pfc. 55 239 976	Korean



A Group of Legionnaires in 1938

The history of Sully Post No. 79, is not finished. Its members are carrying on. Membership and interest are high and its activities are a vital part of the community life of Sully County. As the Grand Army of the Republic kept alive the best traditions of American patriotism following the Civil War, so the American Legion, through its posts, is fostering and perpetuating a one hundred per cent Americanism and all that it implies, holding high the torch which was thrown to them "In Flanders Field." And now those lads of World War II and the Korean Conflict will take the responsibility and resolve to make this a better world for all humanity in which to live, where grief and suffering shall be at a minimum.—L. F.



Boys State

A citizenship training program sponsored by the American Legion was started in 1940 and each year boys of the junior class in high school from all over the state are represented. The faculties make up a list of boys qualified for this honor from their potential qualities in leadership, character and scholastic standing. And from this list, the local Legion posts and other supporting organizations, such as the Kiwanis, Lions and others, make their selections. The Boys State Convention is held at Northern State Teachers College, Aberdeen, the first week in June, and here the youths learn the workings of democracy by active participation in the mythical state. The first convention was limited to 240 boys; however, the number has increased considerably through the years.

The following are the boys from the Onida High School who have attended Boys State to date. Jack Abbott, 1940; Kenneth Bandy, 1941; Donald Becker, 1942; David Trumble, 1943; (no convention), Forrest Byrum, 1946; John Sutton, Jr., 1947; William Jordan, 1948; Phillip Zebroski, 1949; Robert Porter, 1950; James Ryan, 1951; James Sutton, Jr., 1952; Kent Hyde, 1953; Mark Hyde, 1954; Robert Sargent, 1955; Kenneth Sutton, 1956; Pat Cullinan, 1957, and Harry Thomas, 1958.—M. S.

American Legion Auxiliary

The Onida unit of the American Legion Auxiliary to Sully Post, No. 79, of Onida, South Dakota, was organized on January 21, 1921.

The first meeting place was under the First National Bank, the present location of the Onida Bank, with Mrs. Inez Knox, president, and Effie Stringer, secretary. The Unit has met regularly on the second Thursday of each month since that time.

Early in the spring of 1921, a permanent charter was issued with the following charter members: Jennie Sheffer, Belle B. Cole, Effie Stringer, Hazel M. Eager, Kitty McConnell, Alice Ludwig, Mabel A. Jack, Adylene Pearl Smith, Inez A. Knox, Beth Knox, Ida Marie Yeager, Julia Valentine, Myrtle A. Laurson, Lucille Yeager, Blanche Drasky, Marie Fanton, Marie Rumrill, Elнора L. Quimby, Faye Coleman, Pauline Liskey, Ann Lisky, Emma Lister, Juana Larenman, Adele Nelson, Mathilda McGuire, Bertha Hortman, Hazel Hortman, Mary Jordan, Grace Emma Byrum, Alice Byrum, Teresa Serbousek, Pearl B. Gerlach, Edna Church Hart, Alice Smith, Wanda Parrott Nelson, Emelia N. Johnson, Alice B. Severson and Ona Chamberlain.

Delegates to the first department convention, held in Aberdeen, S. Dak., in 1921, were Inez Knox and Jennie Sheffer. It was at this convention that the Preamble was adopted.

In the early days of the Unit there didn't seem to be much information or guidance from Department Headquarters. Indeed, the Unit is indebted to the patriotic spirit and unselfish service of those early officers and members for its very existence and survival. They followed the first lines of the Preamble to the letter, "For God and Country."

Sully Unit has always cooperated with the American Legion, Sully Post No. 79, in observing Memorial Day. In 1932 the local unit of the Womens Relief Corps to the Grand Army of the Republic disbanded, and Sully Unit assumed their duties of decorating on Memorial Day the graves of all soldiers of former wars, together with the graves of World War I and II and the Korean Conflict. Poppy wreaths and flags are placed on the graves of all Auxiliary members. The Unit shall continue decorating all of these graves throughout the years to come.

Since 1947 the local Unit has been sponsoring a representative junior girl from Onida High School to Girls State held each year at Dakota Wesleyan, Mitchell. Donna Klix was the first Girl Stater chosen to receive this honor. Other girls attending the week-long session held on the campus of the University at Mitchell were Norma Stockstad, 1948; Lois Sutton, 1949; Goldie Mileusnich, 1950; Patty Rappana, 1951; Shirley Mason, 1952; Delma Dean Clark, 1953; Betty Ludwig, 1954; Beverly Letellier, 1955; Connie Rappana, 1956; Rose Miles, 1957, and Bonnie Becker, 1958.

Through the years the Unit has carried on an extensive rehabilitation and child welfare program—both in the department and locally. It sponsored preschool clinics from 1932 to 1942, and since 1936 has assisted with the baby clinic and contest at the Sully County Fair at which time loving cups are presented to the most perfect baby boy and baby girl.

The Unit has a Poppy sale each year in May and also has conducted Poppy essay and poster contests. Funds for Unit activities are earned by serving lunch for the American Legion's famed "Roarin' Gulch," poppy sales, food sales and plays.

The Sully Unit Gold Star Mothers are Teresa Serbousek (deceased), World War I; Lily Forest, World War II; Rhoda Hyde,

World War II; Helen Culey, World War II; Agnes Bowe (deceased), World War II; Imo Jordan, World War II; Anna Westphal, World War II, and Adina Goosen, Korean Conflict.

The Gold Star Sisters of the Unit are Jeanette Hart, World War I; Elnora Quimby, World War I; Bessie Lumley, World War I; Otelia Pitlick, World War I; Alvina Wagner, World War II; Jean Hyde Kane, World War II, and Agnes Niehoff, Korean Conflict.

The Past Presidents Parley was organized May 24, 1954, with Mrs. Marie Rumrill acting chairman, she being the first of the past presidents living in Onida at the time. The purpose of the Past Presidents Parley is to assist the local Unit. In 1956 the Parley put on the tenth district convention held in Onida, and since has helped with the membership drive.

Sully Unit has given to District 10 two district presidents. Ada Jordan served two terms from 1938-1942 and LaVonne Chamberlain, 1952-1954.

The Unit and its members have served the community long and well and will continue to serve and support any and all worth-while community activities, never forgetting their first obligation is to the disabled veterans and their families.—L. F.

The presidents who have served Sully Unit and their secretaries are as follows:

President	Secretary
1921 Inez Knox (Deceased)	Effie Stringer
1922 Jennie Sheffer (Deceased)	Edna Church Hart
1923 Belle Cole (Deceased)	Hazel Hortman
1924 Effie Stringer (Deceased)	Julia Crandall
1925 Doris Snyder (Lives in Colorado)	Effie Stringer
1926 Alice Severson (Deceased)	Effie Stringer
1927 Hazel Brabec (Lives in Oregon)	Ruth Nystrom
1928 Effie Stringer (Deceased)	Alice Severson
1929 Marie Rumrill (Lives in De Smet, South Dakota)	Ada Jordan
1930 Marie Rumrill	Florence Boyd
1931 Ruth Nystrom (Lives in California)	Lillian Fosness
1932 Clarissa Hardwick	Lillian Fosness
1933 Lillian Fosness	Marie Fanton
1934 Marie Fanton (Lives in Oregon)	Elsie Kottke
1935 Lelia Nattress (Lives in Glendale, California)	Elva Nelson
1936 Ada Jordan	Imogene Kopp
1937 Elsie Kottke (Lives in Salem, Oregon)	Clarissa Hardwick
1938 Imogene Kopp (Lives in Twin Falls, Idaho)	Betty Reedy
1939 Betty Reedy	Marie Hofer
1940 Pauline Rodman	Marie Hofer
1941 Marie Hofer	Hildred Warne
1942 Elva Nelson	Hildred Warne
1943 Margaret Murray (Lives in Aberdeen)	Marie Rumrill
1944 Mae Becker (Lives in Pierre)	Marge Knox
1945 Bernice Lemon Kitterman (Lives in Doland, South Dakota)	Marge Knox
1946 Marge Knox	Imogene Kennedy
1947 Ednamae Day	LaVonne Chamberlain

1948	Virginia Green	Ada Jordan
1949	Marian Mikkelsen	Marge Knox
1950	LaVonne Chamberlain	Mildred Starbuck
1951	Mildred Starbuck	Marcella Hoover
1952	Phyllis Neu	Sady Nelson
1953	Marcella Hoover	Marian Mikkelsen
1954	Sady Nelson	Annabell Clausen
1955	Martha Walsh	Annabell Clausen
1956	Lois Bartels	Esther Hale
1957	Esther Hale	Eileen Hofer
1958	Margaret Demery	Wanda Mauree Hall

Masons

The preliminaries for the organization of a Masonic lodge in Onida began early in 1912. A number of Masons holding membership in various jurisdictions and residing in this vicinity, feeling the need of a Masonic order in Onida, met pursuant to invitation in the office of C. R. Garner on Feb. 18, 1912, to consider the feasibility of a lodge. Out of this preliminary meeting a temporary organization was effected and named a "Masonic School". C. R. Garner was elected president and H. A. Patterson, secretary.

Invitations were sent out to all Masons in the vicinity by order of President Garner to meet again on February 20 for the purpose of signing an application for a charter to organize a lodge. The meeting was held in the office of Gropengieser and Snyder, the same office that now houses the Gropengieser Land and Abstract Co. Those signing the application for a charter were John Kleinschmidt, H. A. Patterson, L. E. Snyder, J. W. Morris, F. T. Hartley, Van Ludwig, E. E. Heywood, M. B. Dunlap, Robert E. Dunlap, J. H. Gropengieser, C. R. Garner, Dave Hall, L. A. Temmey, Daniel Adams and Alex A. Calhoun.

Meetings were held in the Dunlap Hall, beginning in March, 1912, and continued in that location until October 3, 1947, when the building was purchased by the Masonic order and moved to its present site on lots owned by the lodge.

As a result of the request for a charter, the Grand lodge of South Dakota granted the Onida members a Dispensation under date of June 28, 1912, authorizing the Master Masons of Onida and vicinity to meet as a lodge under the name of "Onida lodge, U.D. (under dispensation) A.F and A.M." The first meeting of the lodge under dispensation was

held on July 9, 1912. Regular meeting nights were then set for the first and third Wednesdays of each month and have continued as such to date.

The first applications for new members by initiation were received from Harry Berg, Wilber J. Stowers, Samuel B. Stegeman and Minor Haverly.

On December 3, 1912, the lodge was saddened by the sudden death of one of its members, Marcus B. Dunlap. Arrangements were made for conducting funeral services and the necessary paraphernalia was secured from the Blunt lodge. Willis E. Johnson, of Aberdeen lodge, No. 38, presided during Onida's first Masonic funeral on December 5, 1912.

On July 7, 1913, the Grand lodge of South Dakota, under the direction of Grand Master O. H. Williams, held an Emergent Communication in Onida for the purpose of constituting Onida lodge No. 173. The following members were installed as officers to govern the new lodge: John Kleinschmidt, W.M.; R. E. Dunlap, S.W.; L. E. Snyder, J.W.; A. A. Calhoun, S.D.; J. W. Morris, J.D.; C. R. Garner, treasurer; J. H. Gropengieser, secretary; Van Ludwig and E. E. Heywood, stewards, and S. B. Stegeman, tyler.

Three members have been presented gold medals for 50 years of continuous membership. They were Wm. H. Parkin in 1945, Albert Youngberg in 1948 and B. M. Hart in 1956.

The Onida lodge has had a steady increase in membership in spite of the loss by deaths and members moving from this vicinity and demitting. The present membership is now 145. Plans are in the making for a new temple to better serve local members and the sister organization, the Eastern Star.—M. K.

Eastern Star

Wherever the Masonic lodge has an organization, the Order of the Eastern Star is sure to follow. The order is dedicated to giving practical effect to the beneficent objectives of Free Masonry, and true to its program, the Star came to Onida a few short years after Masonry was established here.

Rising Sun Chapter, No. 86, of Blunt, sponsored the granting of a charter to Onida Chapter, No. 138, on May 27, 1920. Edna Church Hart was installed as the first worthy matron, and John J. Bauman became the worthy patron.

The charter members, in addition to Mrs. Hart and Mr. Bauman, were Kittie McConnell, Clara Close, Carrie Garner, Wanda Nelson, Alta Huffman, Belva Bauman, Alice Loitwood, Maud Garner, Clara Kleinschmidt, Alice Ludwig, Ona Chamberlain, Mabel Jack, Bertram M. Hart, Edward Loitwood, C. R. Garner, John Kleinschmidt and Van Ludwig.

The Star membership increased rapidly, and it soon became one of the largest

and most active fraternal organizations in the city.

The Eastern Star regulations provide for annual visitations to each chapter by one of the four principal officers of the Grand Chapter. These visitations have always been highlights of the year in Onida Chapter. At these special meetings, there have been numerous visitors from Blunt, Highmore, Gettysburg, Pierre, Fort Pierre and other chapters in this area.

Members of Onida Chapter have always been active in South Dakota Grand Chapter. The most recent grand officers in Onida Chapter were Jan Lemmel, Grand Ada, in 1957, and Marge Knox, Grand Esther, in 1948. Bessie B. Lumley was a 50-year member during 1958.

Onida Chapter helps support the Children's Home at Mitchell, the Crippled Children's Drive, the Eastern Star Home at Redfield which is maintained by the Grand Chapter for their aged members, the Eastern Star Training Award for Religious Leadership and various local projects.

At the November, 1958 election, Leita



Eastern Star Officers in 1951. Pictured, standing, left to right—Evelyn (Pat) Cruthoff, Mae Ludwig, Virginia Hilton, Beulah Sutton, Mildred Sutton, Arnold Schreiber, Bessie Schreiber, Marge Knox, Doris Vos, Janice Lemmel, Florence Sutton and Leita Byrum. Seated, left to right—Bessie Lumley, Robert Mikkelsen, Maynard Knox, Ardis Gatons, LaVonne Chamberlain and Hazel Buol.

Worthy Patron Maynard Knox is shown presenting a "50-Year" pin to Bessie Lumley at a reception held in her honor on December 19, 1957.



Byrum was elected worthy matron; Robert Mikkelsen, worthy patron; Earline Lindell, associate matron; James Young, associate patron; Opal Trythall, conductress; Jean Koenig, associate conductress; Hazel Buol, secretary, and Jan Lemmel, treasurer.—L. B.



Onida Fire Department

In May, 1910, a committee of five was appointed to make the necessary arrangements for organizing a volunteer fire department. The committee included F. T. Hartley, L. D. Johnson, M. R. Jenson and George Nelson.

The fire equipment at that time consisted of a two-wheel pull cart with reel for the hose, about 300 feet, a four-wheel surrey buggy with a platform for ladders and a few pails. Later a chemical truck with two chemical tanks was added.

The following year, on April 27, a meeting was called by Chairman Cole and Secretary F. W. Johnson. Fifteen of the 23 volunteer firemen were in attendance. J. L. Kleinschmidt was elected chief and Tom J. Dalton, assistant chief.

In September, 1912, a small building was erected on the county lots east of

the old courthouse for the purpose of housing the equipment belonging to the fire department. A special meeting was called following the fire that destroyed the Gropengieser home in February, 1915. The firemen realized that it was necessary to have better organization. Chief Klienschmidt divided the members into three groups—one for the chemical engine, one for the hose cart and the other for the hook and ladder equipment. Kleinschmidt, Dalton and E. F. Brunneman were named captains of the three divisions.

Meetings were held just once a year to elect officers, with special meetings called by the chief any time during the year. On March 19, 1935, it was voted to hold monthly meetings on the last Tuesday evening of the month, and election of officers to be held and a financial report read at the December meeting.

The first well-equipped fire truck with chemical tanks and space for carrying hose and ladders was purchased by the City of Onida in 1931, and used until October, 1946, when a new truck, with a force pumping system, was purchased. In September, 1946, a 1,000-gallon water supply truck was purchased by rural subscription, the City of Onida and the Fire



Onida Fire Department in 1958. Pictured back row, left to right—Les Swanson, Les Ridinger, Tom Donahue, Marvin Hiller, Ed Cruthoff, Vern Palmer, Wendell West, Joe Lamb, Orville Davis, Jack Schall, Alfred Mosiman, Paul Kellogg, Ray Bartels and Ray Doyle. Front row, left to right—Clarence Chase, Harold Wood, Lee Rappana, Darwin Stewart, Elmer Ripley, Robert Ramler, Clinton Dunlap, Floyd Dolton, Joe Kub, Leo Lemmel and Everett Chenoweth. Foreground—Joe Lamb's "shadow," Pooch.

Department, for fighting rural and prairie fires. A pumper fire truck was purchased by the county commissioners in 1950.

The first firemen's ball was held in 1937, for the purpose of raising funds for local and rural children's Christmas treats. This ball has been an annual affair. Another yearly highlight is Ladies' Night, when wives of the firemen, the mayor and his wife, city council and county commissioners and their wives are entertained at a banquet.

In June, 1947, an inhalator and resuscitator were purchased and later left at the Onida Hospital.

The Department now owns a city pumper truck with 400-gallon tank; a county pumper truck equipped with a two-way radio; one 1,000 gallon water supply truck equipped with a two-way radio and engine pump for loading, and an ambulance fully equipped, which was acquired from the Custer Fire Department in March, 1956. This serves the entire community and has made trips to Aberdeen, Huron, Sioux Falls, Pierre, Rapid City and Minneapolis. The Fire Hall, which is large enough to house the three trucks and ambulance, has a two-way radio and telephone.

The Department has donated to many worthwhile organizations and sponsored various projects through the years, such as First Aid classes—the first one in 1935, instructed by Dr. Zeiss; another in 1952, with Dr. Rimsa, and a third class in 1956

with Dr. Orgusaar in charge; Onida basketball team and purchased suits in 1935; Santa Claus and treats established in 1937; baseball team and purchased equipment in 1939 and several years later; instrumental in laying water mains to the fair grounds in 1940; donation of \$100 yearly to the Recreational Program since 1947; Hospital Fund—\$500 in 1951, \$200 in 1952 and \$222 in 1953; American Legion Baseball Athletic Fund—\$400, and purchased gas masks—\$500 in 1952. Also two home talent plays have been put on by members of the organization.

All department members have been blood typed and many have given blood whenever or wherever it has been needed.

A list of fire chiefs since 1929 follow in order: Henry Chamberlain, J. M. Reedy, J. D. Nichols, Sig Severson, Clarence Chase, Mott Geiser, Les Swanson, H. R. Birdsall, Conrad Huse, Ed Cruthoff and Ray Bartels.

J. M. Reedy and L. C. Ridinger received special badges for 25 years' service with the department.

At a reorganizational meeting held early in 1958, Ray Bartels was again named chief of the Onida Volunteer Fire Department to succeed Les Swanson, who had served for the second time as chief for about eight years, giving freely of his time and efforts. Other officers elected were LeRoy Rappana, first assistant; Clarence Chase, second assistant; Dennis LaFave, secretary and treasurer; Les Swanson and Paul Kellogg, trustees.—L. R.

Mrs. Luther Nelson, right, receiving the "Mrs. Oneidas Club" loving cup for 1958, at the annual Ladies' Night Banquet held in December, 1957. Mrs. Earl Baxter, left, wife of the club's president, made the presentation.



Oneidas

The first meeting of the Oneidas Club was held on November 16, 1923, sponsored by the Pierre Kiwanis Club. Dinner was served by the Legion Auxiliary, and the first set of officers was elected. Dr. B. M. Hart was named president; C. R. Garner, vice president; C. J. Crandall, secretary, and M. R. Brown, treasurer. Trustees were L. D. Johnson, F. W. Thompson, C. L. Bates and John Bauman. Pierre people here as sponsors were Dr. Riggs, J. E. Hipple and Judge Polley.

Some of the early members, in addition to those already mentioned, were M. B. Knight, Forrest Eager, W. B. Spears, Guy Rumrill, John Adams, M. H. Quimby, Earl Hardwick, Jack Reedy and Luther Nelson. It is interesting to note that many of the early members are still very active in the club, such as Spears, Hardwick, Reedy and Luther Nelson. Other 25-year members include Clarence Chase, Les Swanson, Art Owens, Maynard Knox and Art Johnson.

Several of the projects backed by the Oneidas were Sully Lake, Onida Community Hospital, City Park, Municipal Auditorium and new school addition.

Members of the club arranged a banquet and program on March 25, 1953, in honor of members of the athletic association—football, basketball and track, cheerleaders and the coach, Bob Koenig, of Onida High School. Joe Mendel, former star athlete of Onida High, was one of the speakers. For "Smokey Joe" the occasion was more of a homecoming than a fea-

tured appearance. Many in the audience looked back some 20 years and compared the laurels which he garnered with those acquired by the 1953 Warriors. In recognition of outstanding performances in basketball, the Oneidas awarded individual trophies to all team members, Coach Koenig, the team manager, DeWitt Miles, and the cheerleaders, in addition to the silver cup presented the Warriors as a team.

The Oneidas is the oldest, independent men's service club in the city that can boast a continual and active operation since its organization.

The 1958 officers include Clinton Dunlap, president; Walter Becker, vice president; Supt. Joe Greenan, secretary and treasurer. Members of the new Board of Control are Earl Baxter, Earl Kinder, Clarence Ludwig, Jack Donahue, Elliott Byrum, Vern Palmer and Harold Wood.—C. D.



Onida Cemetery Association

Onida Cemetery Association was formed 71 years ago on April 29, 1886. The original board consisted of Charles Agar, Reuben Norton, William Toomey, Frank Brigham, A. Y. Denton, W. W. Small, Wallace Lilly, C. W. Holmes, W. D. Dwyer, C. R. Drew, E. J. Lingden, L. C. Weyand, Frank Lillibridge, D. Q. Jordan, L. Livingstone, C. B. Walker and C. R. Malleck.

The board selected the present location, had it surveyed and six members contributed \$1 each to pay the incorpor-

ation fees to the State of South Dakota. The stockholders held a meeting at which time business matters were transacted and officers elected. C. H. Agar was named president and J. N. Garner, secretary. The plat consists of 650 lots or burial space for approximately 3,000 deceased. At the present time officials estimate that, through organized survey, sufficient room is available for at least 15 years.

In May, 1902, several nice monuments were placed at the graves of Charles H. Agar, R. M. McClure, Mrs. F. P. McCamly, Mr. and Mrs. C. K. Mallock's daughter, and others.

In the spring of 1921, a row of elms was planted around the outer edge of the cemetery and a beautiful iron gate was placed at the main entrance. Water was piped to the grounds in 1925.

The main accomplishments at the fix-up and clean-up campaign held in May, 1957, were repairing and re-installing the entrance gate, new cement approach at main gate, two new exit gates, 8x12 cement platform in front of tool house, roadways shaped and graveled, 48 location signs set up, four trash barrels painted and located, and the large mound of earth in the southeast corner of the cemetery removed.

Upon the death of Honorable Judge M. H. Quimby on December 31, 1958, Edward Klix became acting president; Eleanor Thompson, acting secretary; Arlene Thompson, treasurer; Howard A. Weischedel, West Sully member and Sherman Seward, North Sully member.

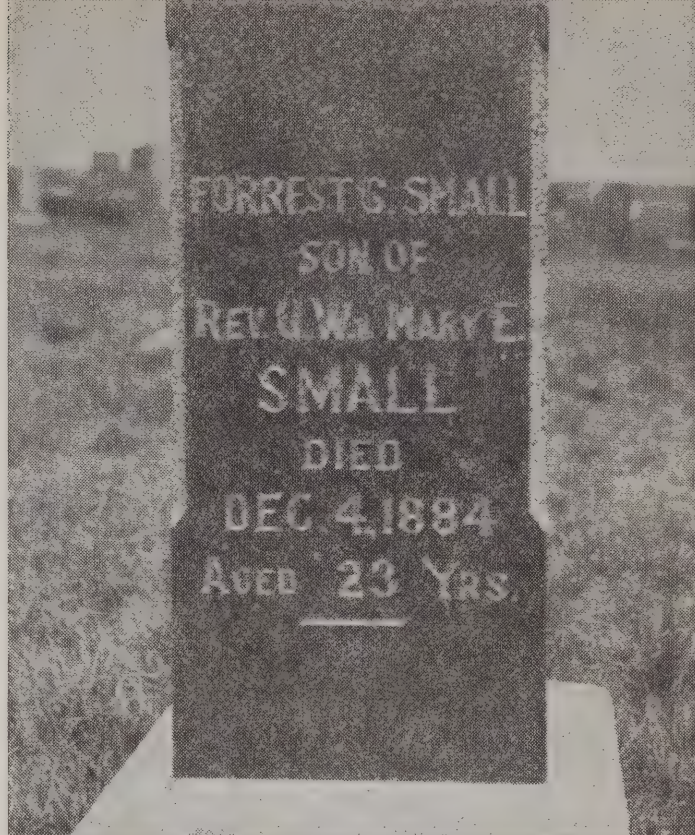
Appreciative people say "The best kept cemetery in central South Dakota."

Murder Victim Was First Burial

A murder victim, Forrest S. Small, son of the Rev. O. W. Small, pastor of the Congregational Church in Onida, was the first person buried in the cemetery on December 4, 1884. About 1908 the monument which now marks the grave (see photo) was said to have replaced the original marker.

An account of the incident and subsequent lynching of the alleged murderer follows:

Bell and Small were two land attorneys at Harrold. Bell was rather vindictive and not well liked; whereas, Small was popular and his popularity was steadily increasing. This was the source of



Forrest S. Small

Bell's increasing hatred and envy of Small.

One day Small failed to appear at his office and after several days' absence, the mystery of his disappearance grew. At last the suspicion of foul play began to be feared and with it was recalled the hatred and actions of Bell. It was found that about the time of Small's disappearance, Bell had been accompanied on one or more of his trips across the prairie by a halfwit named Bennett. Pressure was brought to bear on Bennett and he was threatened with prosecution unless he disclosed all that he knew. He confessed going out riding with Bell and admitted that they had met Small up in Sully County and that Bell had killed him with a hatchet. Bennett also conducted a party of men to the spot where the body was found buried.

Bell was then arrested, taken to Pierre and placed in jail. While there was little doubt that Bell would be convicted, it was a relief to the people of both Sully and Hughes counties when one night a crowd rode into Pierre, proceeded to the jail, secured Bell and strung him up in regular vigilante style. No one doubted they had lynched the right man. In the courthouse yard at Pierre a plaque now stands noting the hanging incident.—E. K.

Boy Scouts

The organization and initiation into the work of the Boy Scouts of America was started in Onida in June, 1917, with William Bullock as scoutmaster.

The scouts made great progress during the next few months, and in March, 1918, they presented a play, entitled, "The Making of Larry," at the Serbousek Hall, located at the present H & H Corner. The cast included Charlie Hyde, Orval French, Harry Lesher, Ted McGuire, James McGinis, Herbert Byrum, Dwight Osterkamp, George Bullock, Truman Knauer, Harold Norfolk and Raymond Doyle. Entertainment between acts included telegraph and patrol drills, supervised by Robert Williams. The high school girls' glee club presented several numbers, under the direction of the Misses Brown and Walker. The final number on the program was a vocal solo by Myron Brown. The proceeds of \$67 was used to help purchase scout uniforms.

Scout activities were rather intermittent during the next few years, until the organization finally became dormant. However, it didn't take long for parents of the young boys to realize that scouting was an important part of their development, so in June, of 1921, Onida Troop No. 1 was reorganized and started active work on the scout program. Twenty-two registered members enrolled at the time. The troop committee was composed of C. R. Garner, L. D. Johnson, A. R. McConnell and Jesse T. Hayes, with F. I. Satterlee as scoutmaster. It was necessary to reorganize again in 1934, with A. C. Lewis as leader. The highlight of that year was a Jamboree held at Enemy Swim near Watertown. Those making the trip were the two Lewis boys, Roger Keck, Burl Corcoran, John Bauman, Orville Warriner, Don Crawford and David Hull.

In December, 1944, John Adams presented Troop No. 130 his cabin at Sully Lake and the two lots on which it stood.

In 1950, Larry Swanson, 13, and Lyle Sutton, 13, were among the 306 South Dakota explorers and leaders to attend the National Boy Scout Jamboree held at Valley Forge National Park, Pennsylvania, from June 30, through July 6. Forty-seven thousand scouts from all parts of the nation and 570 scouts and leaders from 18 foreign countries gathered at the Park, scene of one of the bitterest winters



Scoutmaster Merrill and His Son, David, a First Class Scout, acting as Junior Scoutmaster.

of the Revolutionary War, to participate in a "once-in-a-lifetime" experience. President Truman opened the Jamboree on June 30, and remained for a two-hour inspection of the 35 sectional camps which occupied about 625 of the 2,033 acres of Valley Forge Park.

Rev. Glenn Duncan, scoutmaster for the local Cub Scout Pack, reported in February of 1951, that about 25 boys in the third, fourth and fifth grade group were showing much enthusiasm and making wonderful progress in Pack work. The Cub Pack was organized into three dens with Mrs. Everett Stewart, Mrs. Mason Youngberg and Mrs. John Day as den mothers. The Cubs' winter recreational program called for frequent outings, including bobsleighbing and skating at Lake Sully, and summer plans were for swimming, overnight camps and other seasonal diversions.

Lyle Sutton departed for the West Coast on July 11, 1953, to attend the Third National Boy Scout Jamboree which was held at the Irvine Ranch on the Pacific Ocean, near Santa Ana, California. Seventy-nine Pheasant Council scouts went from South Dakota, and 50,000 scouts attended from over the nation. President Eisenhower opened the encampment on July 17. En route, the scouts toured such scenic points as the Royal Gorge in Colorado, a day's tour of Salt Lake City, Las



Scouts En Route to Lake Iyatoka in 1955. Pictured left to right—Joe Day, Gary Chase, Brian Wood, Roger Lomheim, David Merrill, Keith Palmer, Billy Donahue, Tom Merrill and Scoutmaster William Merrill.

Vagas, Hoover Dam, Los Angeles, Hollywood, San Juan Capistrano, San Francisco, Portland and Yellowstone Park.

In reorganizing the Cub Pack at a meeting held on April 14, 1954, Winfred Fox was named cub master and den mothers were Mrs. Vern Palmer, Mrs. N. G. Jarnagin and Mrs. Veo Lamb. The following cubs were registered: Keith Palmer, Roger Neu, Ronald Bartels, Charles Lamb, Dick Hyde, Thomas Merrill, Sammy Jarnagin, Bobby Hyde, Marvin Chenoweth, Bobby Kennedy, Ray Sutton, Jim Thompson, John Knox and Kenneth Garcia. Wm. R. Merrill was named scoutmaster of Onida Troop 130 with Les Swanson as troop committee chairman. Other committee members were Clarence Chase, Everett Stewart, Tom Donahue and John Day. Registered scouts of the troop were Van Stewart, Leslie Carroll, Joe Day, Gary Chase, Billy Donahue, David Merrill and Jerry Kennedy. Onida is part of the Buffalo District of the 32-county Pheasant Council, BSA.

David Merrill and Billy Donahue joined 135 boy scouts and explorers representing 27 communities in the 32-county Pheasant Council, in a trek to the 4th National Scout Jamboree at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, in the summer of 1957. Activities for the 50,000 scouts and explorers attending the Jamboree from over the nation were many and varied. They camped in tents for 10 days and nights at historic Valley Forge, took part in con-

servation programs, field sports, gigantic area shows, troop and intertroop campfires, troop and patrol scoutcraft contests, entertainment and demonstrations conducted by various scouts from various sections of the country.

Scouting continued to be very active during 1958, especially the Cub scouts. Den mothers were Mrs. Robert Oshel, Mrs. Jack Donahue and Mrs. Ken Huse, who served for a year. Then Mrs. Dale Uhl, Mrs. Bob Mikkelsen and Mrs. Charles Hoover took over. Rev. Ridinger now has charge of the Webolos group. Robert Oshel, cubmaster, and Mrs. Oshel received certificates for completing a Cub Leaders Training Course.



Chamber of Commerce

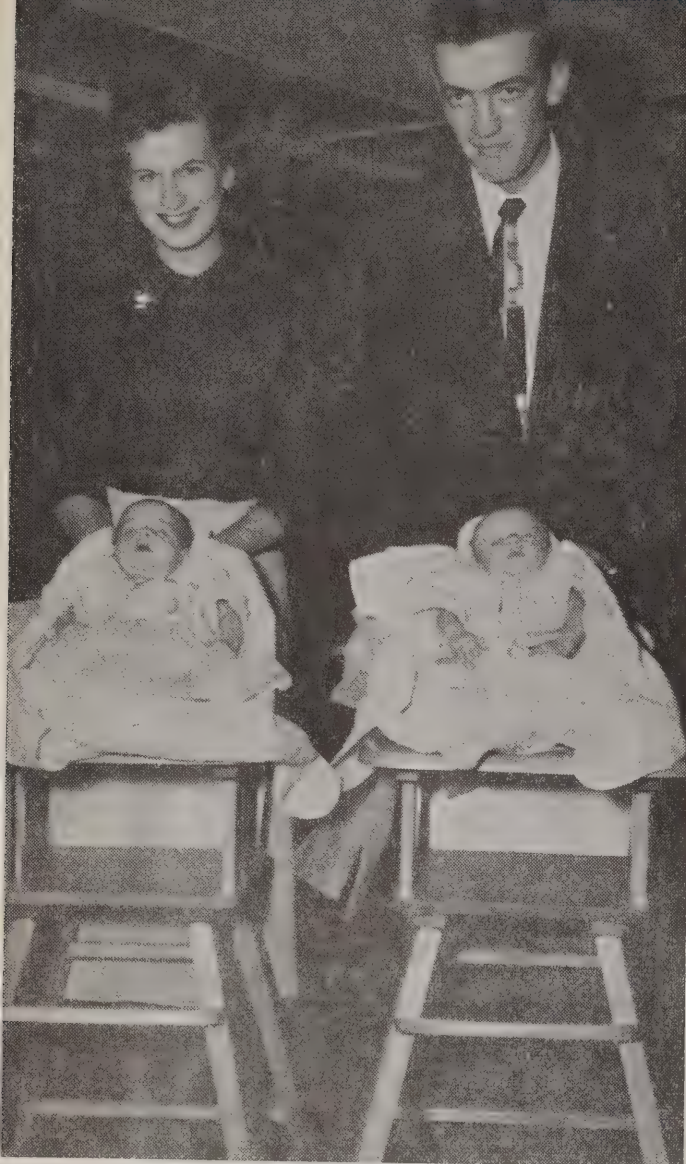
Though the functions of the official organization of Onida businessmen remained the same through the years, when it was first inaugurated on July 25, 1910, it was called the Commercial Club.

The civic group was very active through the years, promoting numerous projects which were beneficial to this community. Activities and interest in the club faded during the late thirties and forties, setting the stage for the rebirth of the organization on January 3, 1951. This time it was called the Onida Chamber of Commerce.

Charter members of the original Commercial Club were: C. R. Garner, T. L. Mitchell, M. J. Haverly, J. N. Garner, Will Spencer, Otis E. French, F. W. Johnson, Thos. J. Dalton, M. G. Tyler, J. E. Temmey, A. H. Gagsletter, Fred G. Johnson, A. F. Blowith, H. D. Yeager, E. E. Brooking, Ernest E. Brooking, M. R. Jenison and M. H. Quimby. The membership fee was one dollar.

The Chamber of Commerce, in 1951, had as its first officers, Cecil Hortman, president, and John F. Schaeffer, secretary-treasurer. The board of directors consisted of John Day, L. C. Ridinger, Robert Mikkelsen, M. Lewis and G. Phares.

Some of the major projects of the Commercial Club were soliciting funds for Y. M. C. A. and second Liberty Bond campaign, both of which were county-wide ventures; encouraging construction of a city hall, and bonding the city to take over and improve power plant facil-



Lori and Larry Yackley, twin daughter and son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Yackley, were each presented a high chair by the Hospital Auxiliary.

ities here. The latter was accomplished in 1919.

In later years, and after the group was reorganized as the Chamber of Commerce, activities predominantly encouraged the city's growth, new businesses and good will.

The 1958 officers for the Chamber of Commerce were Ed Cruthoff, president; Les Swanson, vice president, and John Day, secretary-treasurer.



Hospital Auxiliary

A group of ladies met in the Presbyterian Church basement on January 18, 1952, for the purpose of organizing a

Hospital Auxiliary. The Onida Hospital Board appointed Mrs. John Schaeffer as president and W. G. Abbott, treasurer. There was a total of forty charter members. The enthusiastic members worked hard on their fund-raising projects, which included a parcel post sale, bazaar, bake sales, benefit dance, lunches served at farm sales, benefit rodeo at Blunt, serving the Oneida Club banquet and traveling baskets.

Numerous gifts were purchased for the first baby born in the new hospital, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bob Kleinschmidt of Harrold, South Dakota.

A total of \$3,208.23 was paid out for hospital purposes, which included two payments on hospital equipment, the purchase of an incubator and electric clothes dryer, in addition to linens, bedding, curtains, gowns, dishes and silverware.

A farewell party was held in May, 1954, in honor of Dr. and Mrs. Alfreds Rimsa, who left for Los Angeles, California.

Selling stationery was the main money-making project for 1955. Other projects were the purchase of a waxer and polisher and tile for the downstairs floor, blood typing, serving lunch at the cooperative banquet, hospital road signs erected and high chairs purchased for Lori and Larry Yackley, the first twins born in the hospital.

The highlight for 1957 was the Fourth of July barbecue, when approximately 650 people were served. Following was a tug-o-war between the Agar and Onida fire departments. Agar was victorious. Dancing in the evening climaxed the day's activities.

The Auxiliary again sponsored the Fourth of July celebration and barbecue in 1958. The newly organized Jaycees, Oneidans, firemen and sportsmen took over the entertainment for the evening and also supplied the fireworks.

The 1958 officers were Mrs. Eli Pullman, president; Mrs. Wayne Nelson, secretary, and Mrs. Les Swanson, treasurer.



Junior Chamber of Commerce

It was largely due to the efforts of Wes Beaman, of Selby, that the Onida Chapter of the Junior Chamber of Commerce, or Jaycees, received its Charter



Governor Joe Foss, left, is shown offering his congratulations to **Melvin Johnson**, center, first president of the Onida Jaycees. **Tom Mahan**, state Jaycee president, at right.

of Organization on March 15, 1958, from Tom Mahan, president of the South Dakota Jaycees at that time. Previous to that date the young men from Onida and community had met with the Jaycees from Selby and approved a constitution and by-laws. The following officers and directors were elected as the governing body: Melvin Johnson, president; Albin Stahl, first vice president; James Sutton, Jr., second vice president; Sheldon Bright, secretary; Johnny Gross, treasurer. Larry Venner, Elliott Byrum, Jerome Yackley and Darryl Hofer were named directors.

The Jaycees is an organization of young men between the ages of 21 and 35, inclusive, who wish to direct their combined energies to community betterment and public service.

In Onida, the Jaycees conducted a fund drive for a lighted ball field, provided trash receptacles on Main Street and developed a parking lot for shoppers among other worthwhile endeavors.

The Onida Chapter is a member of

the United States Junior Chamber and the Junior Chamber International, providing the opportunity for young men to promote the nation's prosperity, as well as human understanding throughout the world.

Nearly 300 local Jaycees, guests and local residents attended the Jaycee Charter Night Banquet. The newly-organized group, with a charter membership of 62, was given a tremendous send-off by Governor Joe Foss.—M. J.



Jaycettes

The Onida Jaycettes became an organized chapter in April of 1958, when 16 ladies from the Selby Jaycettes visited Onida to assist prospective members in organizing.

The Jaycette business year ends and begins anew with the State Convention, which is held in May. The first set of officers were Mrs. Elliott Byrum, president; Mrs. Theo Kiker, vice president; Mrs. Dar-



Onida Garden Club Members, taken at the Rose Tea and Flower Show on June 28, 1958. Pictured, left to right—Mesdames Francis Ryan, William Buol, Bessie Lumley, Clarence Culey, Garrett Reynolds, Corydon Ludwig, G. T. Westphal, Walter Ripley, Gertrude Snell, Donald Campbell, George Day, Max Rodman, E. L. Thompson, Axel Mikkelsen and Clarence Lomheim.

ryl Hofer, secretary; Mrs. Melvin Johnson, treasurer, and Mrs. Lyle Sutton, corresponding secretary.

The Board of Directors includes the above-named officers and four directors—Mrs. Dick Matzen, Mrs. Albin Stahl, Mrs. George Westland and Mrs. Darwin Stewart.

There is but one requirement for a woman to join the Jaycettes, and that is for her husband to be a member of the Junior Chamber of Commerce (Jaycees). As stated in the constitution, the purpose of the Onida Jaycettes is "to cooperate with the Onida Junior Chamber of Commerce in advancing its program of usefulness in the city, state and nation; and to promote civic and social activities for the wives of members of the Onida Junior Chamber of Commerce."

Some of the projects which the Onida Jaycettes completed during their first year were preparing and serving the annual eighth grade banquet, serving the firemen's ladies night banquet, holding two bake sales, two rummage sales, a Christmas toy raffle and providing assistance to the Jaycees in many of their projects.

The first year of Jaycette work was certainly very interesting, and somewhat

challenging to the 18 members. The "Outstanding Jaycette of the Year Award," which is the highest honor given to a member on the local level, was received the first year by Mrs. Darryl Hofer, who was chosen by vote of the members. The Onida Jaycettes were successful in their first year's enterprises, proving their organization to be of benefit and service to the community.—P. H.



Ladies Interdenominational Bible Study

A group of ladies met in the Onida Methodist Church basement in June, 1954, for the purpose of organizing an interdenominational fellowship of ladies who were desirous of meeting together for Bible study, prayer and fellowship.

A non-denominational Bible Study workbook has been used to guide the group in studying the Bible passages and looking up cross-reference scriptures.

The organization has a membership of about 30 ladies. Mrs. Basil Todd was the 1958 chairman. Others who have served in this capacity were Mrs. Eli Pullman, Mrs. Robert Frescoln, Mrs. W. C. Strickland and Mrs. Melvin Currier.—N. C.

A Group of P.T.A. Charter Members in 1947. Pictured back row, left to right—Jack Reedy, Maynard Knox, Clarence Chase, Lee Rappana, Francis Ryan, Coach Carl Nyman and Supt. Amos Tschetter. Middle row, left to right—Two unidentified, Mrs. L. C. Ridinger, Mrs. Knox, Mrs. Ed Cruthoff and Mrs. Ryan. Front row, left to right—Mrs. Mason Youngberg; Mrs. Chase, vice chairman; Mrs. Corydon Ludwig, secretary; Mrs. Rappana; Mrs. Harold Martin, treasurer; Mrs. Minnie Zimmer, and Mrs. John Sutton, chairman.



Onida Garden Club

A group of ladies interested in flower gardening met at the home of Mrs. Francis Ryan in April of 1954, for the purpose of organizing a garden club. Mrs. Ryan was named president; Mrs. Max Rodman, vice president; Gertrude Snell, secretary and treasurer, and Mrs. Clarence Culey, reporter. Onida Garden Club was the name chosen for the organization and it was voted to have a membership of 16.

Monthly meetings are held on the second Monday, 10 months of the year. The November meeting is an annual pot luck dinner, usually held at the home of the current president, with Mr. and Mrs. Tommy Thomsen, from the Pierre Greenhouse as guests. In 1958 the dinner was held at the home of Mrs. Corydon Ludwig.

The annual flower show and tea has been held in June. In 1954, it was a tulip tea and since that time, a rose tea, as the rose was chosen the club flower.

Each fall, the club has a flower booth at the Sully County Fair.

The purpose of the club is to promote better flower gardening in Onida.



Parent-Teacher Association

The Parent-Teacher Association should have a special place in the annals of South Dakota history because of one person responsible for its origin. She was Mrs. Pheobe Hearst, of the Hearst

family, who helped develop Homestake Mines in the Black Hills.

The first PTA organization was formed in Sidney, Iowa, in January, 1910, and is now national in scope. It is an educational organization that unites the forces of home, school and community in behalf of children and youth. Its Objects are to promote the welfare of children and youth in home, school, church and community; to raise the standards of home life; to secure adequate laws for the care and protection of children and youth; to bring into closer relation the home and the school, that parents and teachers may cooperate intelligently in the training of the child, and to develop between educators and the general public such united efforts as will secure for every child the highest advantages in physical, mental, social and spiritual education.

Onida's first PTA organization dates back to October 24, 1921, when about 30 patrons and teachers of the schools met in the commercial club rooms for the purpose of organizing a local association. F. W. Johnson was elected president; Mrs. A. R. McConnell, vice president, and Constance Noste, secretary. C. H. Gall, Mrs. B. M. Hart, Mrs. C. L. Bates, Miss Nelle Young and Supt. F. I. Satterlee were named a standing committee to be responsible for the programs. This organization, however, failed to function.

On April 21, 1947, a large and interested group of school patrons and teachers was on hand at the High School Auditorium for a second organizational

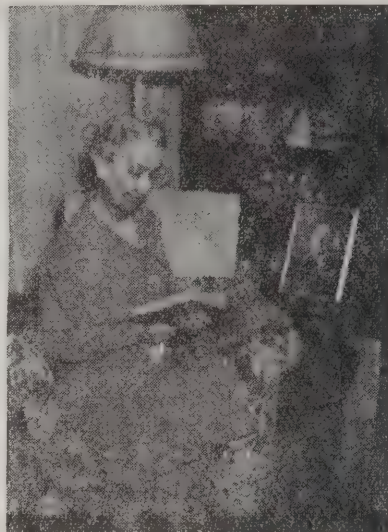
meeting. Supt. Amos Tschetter acted as temporary chairman and Francis Ryan presided as parliamentarian, with Mrs. Corydon Ludwig as temporary secretary.

Election of officers was held to head the group for its first year. They were Mrs. John Sutton, chairman; Mrs. Clarence Chase, vice chairman; Mrs. Corydon Ludwig, secretary, and Mrs. Harold Martin, treasurer. Mrs. Ralph Ludwig, Mrs. L. C. Ridinger and Mrs. B. S. Williams were appointed as a standing membership committee. There were 43 charter members and as this history closes in 1958, there are 140 paid members. Monthly meetings are held on the third Monday of the month during the school year.

Programs are planned by the program chairman and the executive committee. They include local talent such as singing groups, soloists, readings, plays, panel discussions and open house when the parents view the work of art in the grade school. Out-of-town speakers are often included in the programs. The Christmas program, held in December, is a highlight of the winter meetings when students from both the grade school and high school participate in a musical production under the direction of the teachers.

Officers for the current year are Mrs. Earl Kinder, president; Mrs. Paul Kellogg, first vice president; Mrs. James Young, second vice president; Mrs. Walter

Becker, secretary, and Mrs. Clinton Dunlap, treasurer. Mrs. Ed Cruthoff is president of District Two, South Dakota Congress of Parents and Teachers.



Addie J. Williamson

"OWED" TO ONIDA

(by one who owes her a debt of gratitude)

Onida-town, dear old home town

Fair city of the plain;

What well-remembered scenes of thee
Bestrew fond memorie's lane.

"HOME, SWEET HOME, childhood's happy
home"

"School days, school days, dear old golden
rule days"

Boy-and girl-friendships and teacher ones,
too—

Many to last a whole lifetime through.
Church life and work

Cantata and choir

Striving to lift hopes and ideals higher.

Young folks and old folks, to know and
to love,

Truly such gifts are sent from above.

Ah, well—time is too short

There remains but to ask

God's care for you all

And strength for each task.

Onida-town, dear old home town—

"God shed His grace on Thee

And crown thy good with brotherhood"

Through all the years that be.

Note: Thanks to Katherin Lee Bates, and one or two other real poets, for the beauty of their thought and expression which have contributed to these lines. With kindest regards to you all—

Always your friend,

Addie Jordan Williamson



P.T.A. Style Show Entertaining at Mother-Daughter Tea in 1955. Pictured, left to right—Mrs. Ray Doyle, Mrs. Clarence Chase, Mrs. John Day, Mrs. Leo Lemmel, Mrs. Everett Stewart and Mrs. Glenn Wood.

Sports Highlights

"Take me out to the ball game..."

Onida's first baseball team was organized on July 2, 1889, at a meeting held in the Watchman office (Vanity Beauty Shoppe), at which time 10 young men signed up; namely, Bert Lilly, Dan Anderson, F. A. Everts, Ed Pierce, Ed Shepherd, John Cole, Bert Doner and O. Wheelock. Lilly was chosen captain of the team and Everts, secretary.

Their first game was played in Oko-bojo with a group of baseball enthusiasts from the west end of Sully County on the Fourth of July. It was a hotly contested game and ended 11-10 in favor of Onida.

In 1904, the baseball boys received new suits. The lineup that year included

Johnson, Dunlap, Garner, Preilipp, Pierce, Nelson, Haverly, Brooking and Persson.

Then in May, 1910, another team was organized and Frank Hoover, A. H. Goggsletter, John Adams and J. E. Temmey purchased new suits for the team.

Over 40 automobile loads of baseball fans from Gettysburg, Harrold, Blunt, Pierre, Highmore and other nearby towns drove to Onida on Sunday, May 22, to watch the Onida-Blunt game, which ended 11-4 in Onida's favor.

On April 29, 1913, the Onida team was reorganized with J. I. O'Donnell as manager; M. R. Brown, secretary, and C. F. Barber, treasurer. An executive committee, composed of M. J. Haverly, H.



The Onida Chiefs, Oahe League Champions in 1955. Pictured back row, left to right—"Rusty" Brubacher, Pat Kane, Francis Kane, Joe Lamb and Bob Clausen. Center—Al Nuttall, Francis Stahl, Ronald Lawrence, Lyle Bertsch and Walt Schreiber. Front row—Bill Williams, Batboy Tommy Merrill and Manager Maynard Green.

E. Lee, J. E. Temmey, F. A. Lindsten and John Yung, was chosen to work with the officers.

The year 1920 was history-making in Onida, as far as baseball was concerned. That was also the year of the first South Dakota Baseball League. Competing with highly salaried teams, Onida finished the 1920 season in a most commendable manner. Much credit was given to Mr. McLaughlin, treasurer of the baseball association, as there were unlimited duties for him to perform and it was due to his good management that the team was able to make so capable a showing on so little a bank roll.

Crandall, at first base, led the team with the stick; Johnson, the big catcher, was perhaps the most reliable man on the team; Day, H. Telford and Jordan, gave Onida the reputation for having the best outfield in this part of the state; Pirl Telford, one of the best hitters on the team; Lawson and Stoneking, both played good ball; Gordon Day, suffering with a lame arm, nevertheless played excellent ball.

In April, 1921, a five-year lease was taken on the northeast corner of the Byrum farm and work was started on the erection of a new ball park which was used for many years. The Onida baseball team, known as the Onida Chiefs, continued to be active through the years and in 1955, as a member of the Oahe League, represented that league in the State Amateur Tournament held in Redfield.

Onida also had active midget, junior-junior and junior teams throughout the years. In 1954, the Onida Midgets, managed by Wallace Curl, ended the season in grand style when they downed Highmore in an extra-inning tussle with a score of 11 to 10. Jim Thompson and John Knox served the pitches and Joe Day and D. Klingbeil did the catching.

Coach Elliott Byrum's junior-junior team entered its first state tournament at Huron on August 9, 1956, with a season's record of six wins and one loss.



DO YOU KNOW THAT...

The first code of baseball rules was made on September 23, 1845, and that the first contest played under those rules was in Hoboken, New Jersey, in the spring of 1846. In those early days, the

number of players varied from 10 to 14, and the catcher was permitted to have an assistant. The bases were wooden stakes. There were three umpires. In 1860, rules were made restricting the team to nine players on a side.

A few years ago the oldest ball intact was found in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and insured for \$1,000.00 against loss. That ball was used in the game played in 1864. However, in 1918, a man from Syracuse, New York, claimed to have the oldest baseball—one that was used in a game between Utica and Syracuse on August 22, 1861.

An old superstition of the diamond is to "bone a bat." In other words, to rub the club with a big, greasy bone fresh from the butcher shop. "Boning the bat," according to the superstition, fills up the pores of the wood, prevents it from splintering and makes the bat ring when it connects with the ball, producing longer drives.



Basketball

The first girls' basketball team was organized in the fall of 1908, and included Roxanna Scott, Grace Dunlap, Bessie Gropengieser, Bertha Slater, Mary Byrum, and Florence Jordan. The girls often competed against the boys and the games were held in the Woodman Hall (Rivenes Cafe).

High school teams were organized in 1918, for both boys and girls and continued on a competitive basis.

For the first time in the history of athletics in Onida High School, the local basketball team won the honor of being the district champions. This was in 1939, when Onida met its closest rival, the Agar team. The score ended 18-17. The championship game with Cheyenne ended 18-15, to make Onida the 1939 district champions. John Bauman, captain of the local team, accepted the trophy presented by E. B. Coacher, district president.

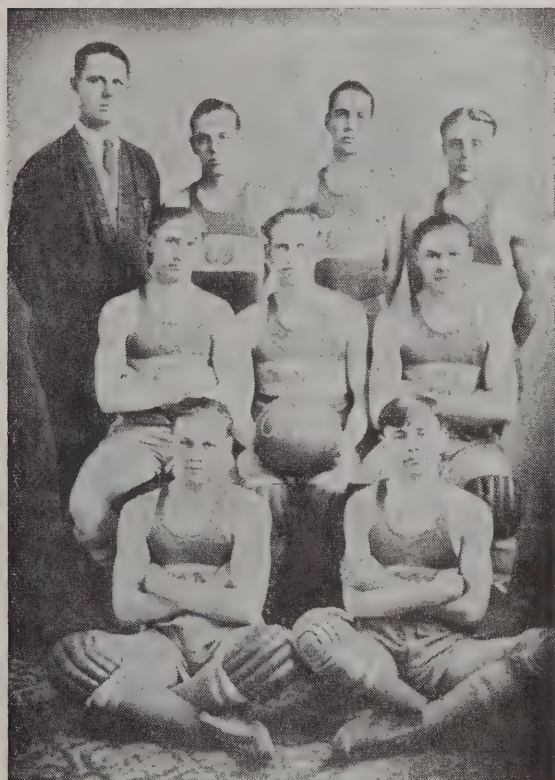
In 1944, Onida High School switched from the Central South Dakota Conference to the Little Central Conference, which was made up of towns whose populations were closely equivalent to Onida.

The Onida Warriors were kings of

the Little Central Conference in 1949, when they outclassed St. Lawrence 40-29 in the championship game. The lineup included Dick Yackley, Joe Lamb, Eugene Youngberg, Elliott Byrum, John Sutton, Jr., Bill Jordan, Bob Porter and Owen Hyde.

By 1951, the Warriors were again back in the Central South Dakota Conference, and in January of that year, were in first place by virtue of three wins over Cheyenne, Faulkton and Highmore.

The following year Onida and Miller were co-champions of the tough Big Central Conference. The Warriors were also crowned champions of the conference tournament held in Pierre during January. It is seldom that the same team wins both the conference tournament and regular conference play. The Onida Warriors, coached by Bob Koenig, turned in one of the best basketball seasons in the history of Onida High School when they ended a long, tough schedule that year with a 21-5 record.



Boys' Basketball Team in 1923-24. Pictured back row, left to right—Coach George Williams, Bob Johnson, Ralph Phares and Ted McGuire. Middle row—Joe Mendel, Elezer Byrum and Henry Serbousek. Front row—Clarence Ludwig and Myron Brown.



Albert Schriever in 1916. Albert, son of Mr. and Mrs. William Schriever, played center on the Huron Academy basketball team that year.

Jim Ryan, as high scoring center, dumped an amazing 389 points during the season; Jim Sutton was the high scoring forward with a total of 287 points and Quentin Youngberg, high scoring guard, hit for 203 points. Sutton also posted a brilliant 77 per cent free throw average. Ryan, Sutton, Youngberg, Darryl Hofer, Norman Allison, Darwin Stewart, Jerome Yackley, John Lamb, Herb Gattons and Virgil Hofer were commended for their sportsmanship, teamwork and victories at the conference tournament.

The Warriors defeated Ravinia, 51-45, the night of March 14, 1953, at Huron to win the 1953 State Class "B" championship. The boys were guests of honor at a potluck supper, followed by a dance held in the City Auditorium on March 16. Sharing honors with the Warriors were



Girls' Basketball Team in 1923-24. Pictured back row, left to right—Jessie (Mason) Nelson, Margaret (Johnson) Mateer, Alice and Helen Youngberg. Front row — Pauline (Ludwig) Stewart, Marie Shore and Martha Goosen. Miss Elva Walker was the coach.

Coach Koenig and the cheerleaders, Julie Nelson, Patty Telford, Madeline Sack and Shirley Mason. Approximately 300 people attended the supper and dance. Purple and white school colors and a banner, "Congratulations Warriors," decorated a table for the honored guests and the same caption appeared on a beautifully decorated cake baked and donated by Chase's Bakery. A festive air prevailed that evening engendered by the Warriors' winning the championship title, the first in the history of Onida High School.

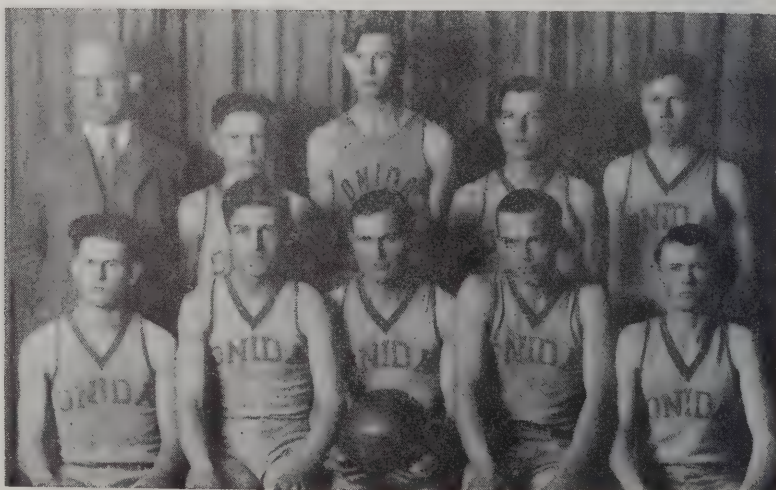
Coach Koenig's Warriors outlasted a determined Agar team to capture the coveted District Seven Basketball title at Gettysburg on February 24, 1954.

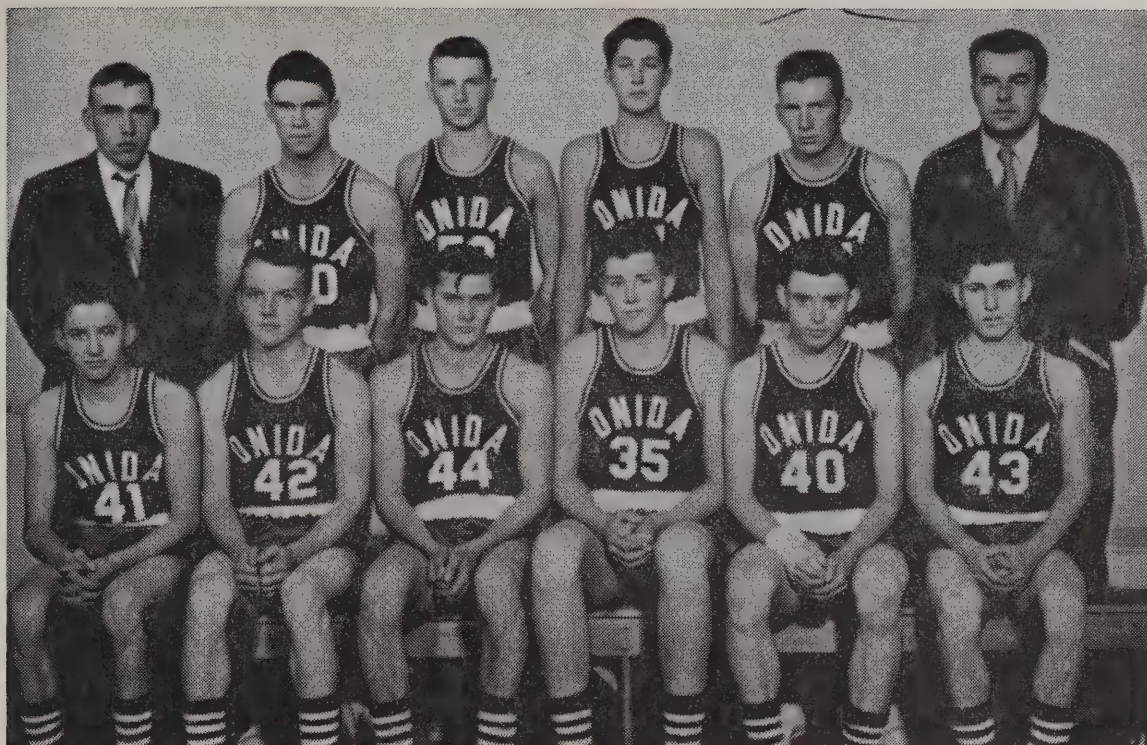
Jim Sutton, State College basketball

star, reported to the Minneapolis Lakers of the National Basketball Association on September 23, 1957. The Lakers, one-time king of pro basketball's major league, drafted Sutton in his senior year at State. While playing varsity basketball at State College, Jim set an all-time scoring record by hitting the hoop for a total of 1,035 points over the three-year period. He also set the nation's best free throw mark during the 1957 season.

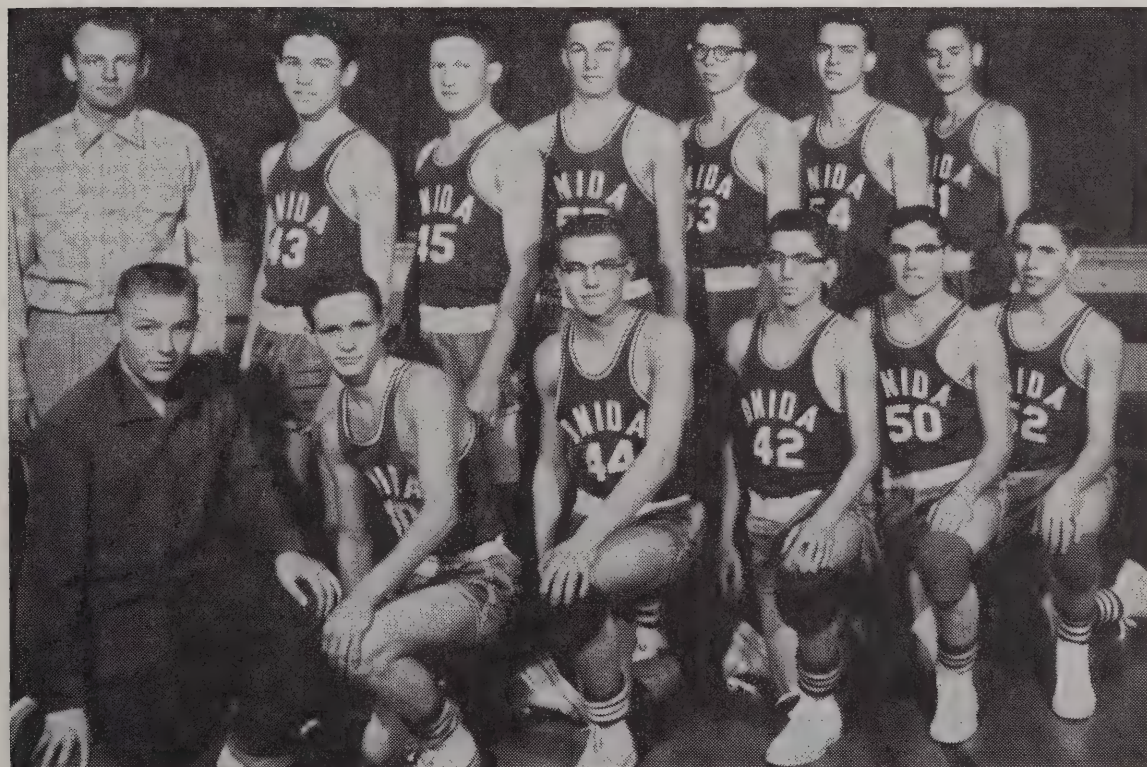
Kent Hyde, who was the mainstay on South Dakota State's basketball team in 1958, set a new all-time scoring record for a State performer with a total of 1,043 points in three seasons. This topped Sutton's record of the previous season. Kent had the distinction of being the highest scoring player in Onida High

Basketball Team in 1927-28. Pictured back row, left to right—Coach Elmer Lund, Lloyd Shoup, William Pitlick, Kenneth Starbuck and Howard Johnson. Front row—Walter Lewis, Maynard Hart, Preston Starbuck, Ben Johnson and Eugene McLaughlin.





Onida's State "B" Champions in 1953. Pictured front row, left to right—Ronald Lawrence, Charles Rappana, Jim Sutton, Kent Hyde, Quentin Youngberg and Elmer Schlenker. Back row—Student Manager DeWitt Miles, Dwight McGuire, Douglas Hyde, Mark Hyde, John Lamb and Coach Bob Koenig. Lamb was injured in an auto accident and was unable to take part in the tournament. He was replaced by Fred Jordan, not shown in the picture.

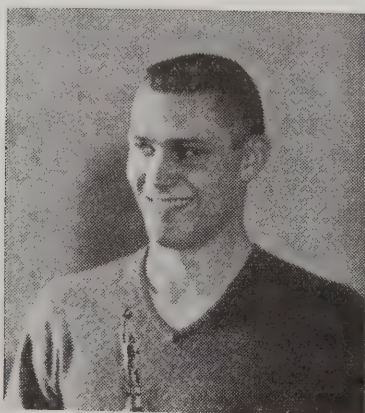


Onida Warriors "A" Squad in 1957-58. Pictured front row, left to right—Manager Joe Day, Frank Sack, Jim Brooking, Jim Thompson, Pat Cullinan and Harry Thomas. Back row—Coach Jack Donahue, John Knox, Bob Tobin, Bob Yackley, Weldon Stephens, Charles Stephens and David Merrill.



Kent Hyde—Kent always did things in a big way. He was the tallest young man ever to don a basketball suit in Onida High School and the highest scorer in any one game while attending Onida High, besides setting a new all-time scoring record in 1958 for a State College performer with a total of 1,043 points in three seasons.

School during his senior year. He averaged 51.1 points per game in 27 games and his highest score in one game was 55 against Agar in the district and 66 against Ipswich in the regional. He graduated from State College in 1958, and is married to Betty Rivenes. They have a daughter, Karla, age two. Kent is now in the insurance business in Huron.



Jim Sutton Holding Free Throw Trophy

Bowling

Twenty local men opened the fall and winter bowling season on September 20, 1939, at the Barnes Bowling Alley in Pierre. The men organized four teams under the leadership of Hardwick, Bauman, Hyde and Jeremiason.

In February, 1940, Louis Volmer announced the opening of a new bowling alley in the former Gustafson Implement building in Onida. The building was repaired and new equipment installed for the recreation parlor. Friday evenings were designated as ladies' night.

Mrs. Virginia Hilton of the Onida Women's Bowling team won second place in the ladies' singles bowling tournament at the Gettysburg Bowl Arena in February, 1956. Mrs. Hilton finished the event with 558 pins. Other bowlers from Onida were Mrs. Frank Burge, Mrs. Norman Jarnagin and Mrs. James Young.



Golf

The Onida Golf Club was organized at a meeting held in the office of Johnson & Spears in May, 1928, at which time F. I. Stringer was elected president; George Williams and W. H. Snyder, secretary and treasurer. H. G. Kottke, Lee Clair and Frank Hyde were elected as a board of directors. Over 40 interested golfers had signed up within a week. The golf links, a nine-hole course, was located just west of Lake Sully.

There was considerable activity on the course that summer and much work done to make the course desirable. As of the last of May, 1929, there were about 50 members belonging to the local club.

Miss Bess Gropengieser matched her skill against the best golfers at the Northern South Dakota Annual Golf Tournament held in July, 1929, with a total low score of 109 for the 18 holes. She received a handsome gold championship medal. C. J. Crandall, Jr., won in the president's flight and received a silver loving cup.

The Bauman-Welch Tournament clos-

Football Team in 1921. Back row, left to right—Coach Hanlon, Herbert Byrum, Ray Doyle, Ralph Ludwig, Gilbert Becker, Elezer Byrum and David Pullman. Front row — Glenwood Robinson, Ted McGuire, Corydon Ludwig, Charles Hyde, Dwight Osterkamp and Connie Hyde.



ed August 31, 1931, and the trophy for Class "A" was won by Dr. B. M. Hart and Class "B" by Art Johnson.

In the spring of 1938, a new nine-hole golf course was laid out on the grounds northeast of the courthouse in Onida. Directors of the club, M. R. Brown, Harvey Huffman and Maynard Knox, leased this tract of about 80 acres from C. R. Garner for a period of ten years. The course was completed by the latter part of June when the public was invited to open house and to try out the course. Many interested people enjoyed the new course and were so impressed that about 30 signed up as members, which was enough to assure the project going over the top as another successful community recreational project.

Bob Koenig, Onida's number one golfer, added another trophy to his collection on Sunday, August 17, 1953. He carried off top honors at the annual Mo-bridge Country Club's Summer Amateur Golf Tournament, winning the championship with a score of 70. He was also medalist, with a low 33 in the first round. Mr. Koenig has since been winning honors and trophies at golf tournaments.

Football

Onida High School played 11-man football for the first time in the fall of 1920. Besides developing the students physically and giving them an incentive to work harder, this extra-curricular activity did more to build the high school than any other one thing could possibly have done. The boys had previously been coached by Will Robinson, now State Historian, who drove to Onida from Pierre several days a week and worked diligently for no compensation.

It became necessary to have a full-time coach, so C. J. Crandall was hired to take over the responsibility of developing the team for competitive play.

The lineup for the first game played at Pierre was E. Serbousek, left end; Robinson, left tackle; Doyle, left guard; Ludwig, center; Lyman, right guard; H. Serbousek, right tackle; C. Hyde, right end; R. McDonnell, quarterback, captain; McGuire, right half; Osterkamp, left half; H. Byrum, fullback; A. McConnell and J. Goosen, substitutes.

The 1927 football aggregation closed with the best season Onida High School had yet attained in the seven years since



Back Fielders in 1926. Pictured, left to right — Joe Mendel, Tom Johnson, Maynard Hart and Matt Glanzer.



Football Team in 1923. Back row, left to right—Joe Mendel, Clarence Ludwig, Myron Brown and Ted McGuire. Front row—Bob Johnson, Troy Conger, Mason Youngberg, Henry Serbousek, Ralph Phares, Elezer Byrum and Harold Hayes.

the first competitive game was played. Seven boys carried the purple for the last time in football: Captain Hart, Preston Starbuck, Ben Johnson, Orville Hyde, William Pitlick, Irvin Maloney and James Norfolk.

Onida High School played 11-man football until the beginning of the war years when it became apparent that there were not enough of the upper classmen left in the community to actively engage in that upper-bracket division. Consequently, the school dropped back to six-man football for a few years and then after the close of World War II and post war adjustments had been made in the school, eight-man football came into existence and has continued as such to date.

Bill Jordan, son of Mr. and Mrs. William Jordan, a gridiron quarterback star for Onida High School, ended an outstanding career with the Wolves' football team of Northern State Teachers College,

Aberdeen, in 1953. Bill was the Wolves' regular signal-caller for three years and in 1952, led the team to the conference championship with his spectacular ball-handling and passing. He also performed for the college basketball and track teams. Jordan is a physical education major, and upon graduation from Northern in the spring of 1954, received a commission in the United States Marine Corps as a second lieutenant. He is now coaching at Northern. He married Barbara Boettcher and they have a son, Kirk.

Two Onida High School footballers rated honorable mention on the All-State eight-man high school football squad released in November, 1957. Receiving the honor were Ronald Kimbell, end, and Charles Stephens, the Warriors' star back-field performer.

The 1958 football team, coached by Marlyn Goldhammer, ended the season with four wins, two losses and one tie.



Football Team in 1934. Pictured, left to right—Coach Claron White, Sam Entz, Chester Nelson, Carl Lindell, Gerald Heldenbrand, Sterling West, Howard Johnson, Wilbur Nelson and Superintendent Coacher. Middle row—LeRoy Kellogg, Russell Green, Kenneth Corcoran, Tom Melody, Bill Glessner and Albert Flansburg. Front row—Dale Quimby, Elwin Hull, Ivan Crawford, Rawleigh Wilhelm, Lee Lindell and Vernon Allison.



Football Boys, Fall of 1938. Pictured, back row, left to right—John Bauman, Robert McMacken, Cecil Hortman and Terry Conner. Front row—Verdett Thomas, Carl Lindell, Marvin Shoup, Lee Lindell, Orvil Warriner, Albert Flansburg and Maynard Green.

Tennis

Tennis was introduced into the school system in 1926 and became a very popular sport. In the fall of 1938, a third tennis court was added to the ever-growing popularity of that activity. Also, a string of powerful lights was erected on the school grounds which made the courts playable any time after dark. The City of Onida appropriated \$100.00 for the installation of the lighting poles, wires and other equipment, and the local school district invested \$111.00 in the necessary wire and posts for the backstops.

Local men interested in improving the courts by donating their time and labor were John Thiem, L. A. Fosness, Maynard Knox, Earl Hardwick, Eddie Johnson, Jim Hilton, Horace Quimby, John Severson, Edgar Hess, Burton and Norman Haverly and Jack Abbott. W. G. Abbott made a further donation of a new net for the third court.

An advisory committee, comprising M. R. Brown, Dr. Hedman, Knox, J. M. Reedy and E. B. Coacher, was chosen to supervise the courts, their upkeep, care, use and was asked to see that players abided by the rules and regulations set up by the school.



Track

Track and Mendel are synonymous—at least as far as Onidans are concerned—for he brought honor and fame to Onida High School. Joe Mendel actually began his brilliant track career while attending Blaine School and much credit can be given Mrs. Mabel Jack, his teacher at Blaine, for stimulating his interest and developing his natural skill as a trackman while still a small boy. Joe

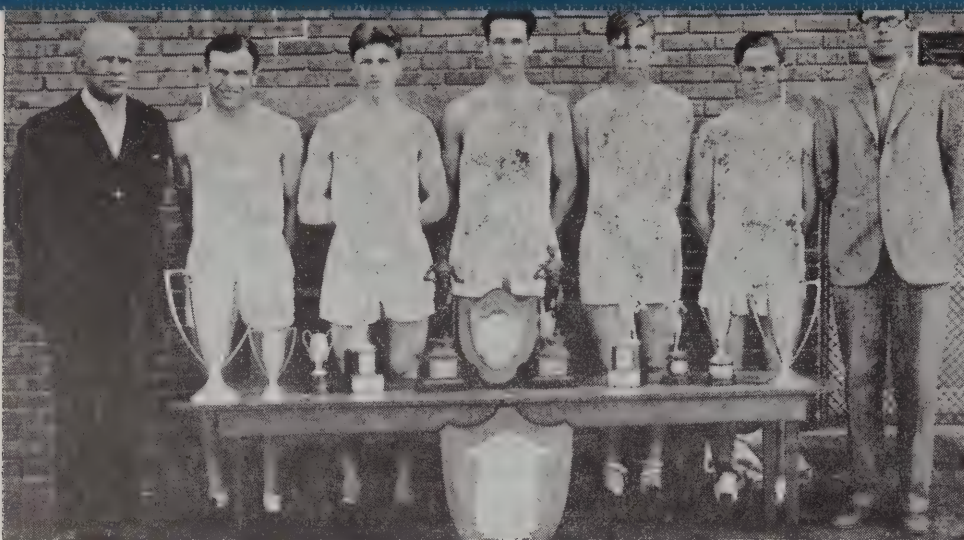
took part in the first rural school rally held at Blaine School on May 5, 1922. He was high point man in the seventh and eighth grade division that day.

In the 1925 Pierre Relays, Joe Mendel, as a junior in Onida High School, won the cup as the individual high point man and received the medal for taking first in the broad jump—21 feet and 3/4 inches—which broke the state record at that time. He also won his trial in the 100-yard dash, taking second in the final. He was also high point man at the State Meet that same year.

In the National High School Athletic Meet held in Chicago in June, 1926, Mendel closed his high school career by capturing first place in the 440, his best race. He was known as Onida High School's "One-man Track Team."

When "Smokey" Joe Mendel, South Dakota's fastest human, equalled Eddie Tolan's world record of 9.5 seconds in the 100-yard dash at the South Dakota Intercollegiate Conference Track and Field Meet, while attending Yankton College, he ended one of the most brilliant athletic careers in the state's history.

Competing under the banners of Onida High School and Yankton College, Mendel won 97 first places. His feature events were the 100, 200 and 440-yard dashes, the broad jump and anchor man in the one-half mile relay. In those events he swept the field 10 times and was high individual scorer 13 times. He was listed on the Athletic Journal's honor roll as one of the best 220-yard runners in the United States. His activities were not confined to track as he won three letters in football and one in basketball, besides four in track, while attending Yankton College.



Relay Team in 1928.

Pictured left to right — Coach Elmer Lund, Preston Starbuck, Maynard Hart, Lloyd Brown, Ben Perkins, Ben Johnson and Supt. George Williams.

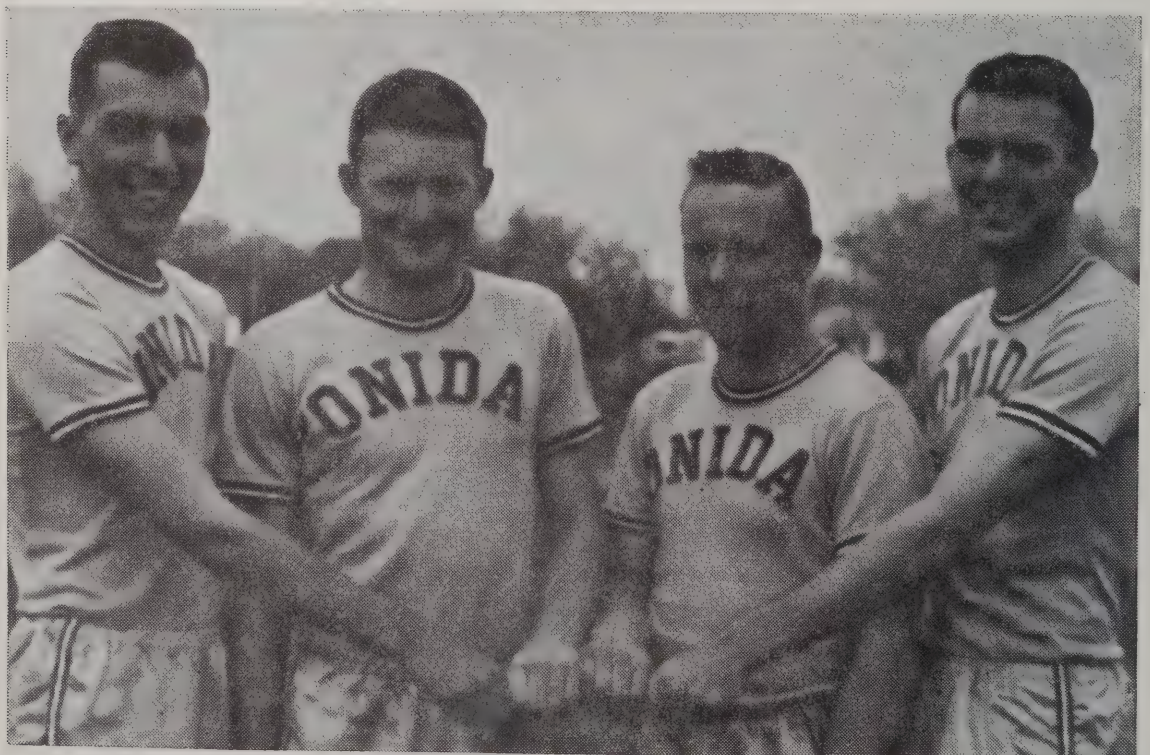
Upon graduation from college, Mendel signed a contract as athletic coach at Faulkton High School. With the transition of "Smokey" Joe from the student's seat to the instructor's desk, will pass one of the greatest all-around athletes ever produced in this or any other section of the country.

In 1928, the Onida High School Mile Relay Team, composed of Lloyd Brown, Ben Johnson, Maynard Hart, Preston Starbuck and Ben Perkins, competed in the Dakota Relays at Sioux Falls and won a beautiful bronze statue and also individual gold medals. Starbuck also set a record at the State Meet in

Huron in 1929, of 22.4 in the 220-yard dash.

The 1958 Freshmen Relay Team, composed of Jim Brooking, Jim Thompson, John Knox and Jim Boren, and coached by Jack Donahue, were timed and clocked as being the fastest freshmen track team in the State.

The 1958 Onida thinclads gave a good account of themselves at the annual Aberdeen Relays. The seven-man squad received 12 medals and a trophy and the coveted trophy was the result of winning the 880-yard relay in 1:35.9. Running in the event were Ron Kimbell, Bob Tobin, Dick Olson and Charles Stephens.



Relay Team in 1958. Ronald Kimbell, Bob Tobin, Dick Olson and Charles Stephens.

Features and Featurettes

The Meloon Brothers

Walter N., Charles and Nathaniel Meloon came to South Dakota from the state of New Hampshire in 1883, and homesteaded in Sully County. Mr. and Mrs. Walter Meloon and two children came here from Portsmouth, New Hampshire. They homesteaded in Clifton Township, but moved to Onida in the late eighties. He purchased lot 23, block two, Original Onida from Charles Agar in January 1889, and had a home built. They lived there a few years and then sold the house to his brother, Nat, in 1896.

An incident recorded in *The Watchman* in April of 1894, stated that during a heavy wind, Walter's fine Stetson hat was blown off and headed southeast for parts unknown. Walter bid his hat "adieu" and for a few days was seen wearing a winter cap. Several days later, when a brisk wind was blowing from the southeast, Walter noticed a black object mingled with tumbling weeds rushing into town. He immediately thought of his Stetson and on running it down, found it to be his own hat that had left him four days previously, still in good condition.

The Walter Meloon family left here about 1899, and went back to their home state where the family grew up. Their son, Walter C., settled in Orlando, Florida, and started a boat factory in partnership with his three sons. Their factory is called Correct Craft and is the second largest in the United States.

Mr. and Mrs. Meloon have made three trips back here to see his birthplace, the last time being in 1957, when he brought two of his sisters along.

The original Meloon house was purchased by Ken Miles and moved to lots 19 and 20, Hyde's Addition in August, 1955. The Miles family came here in February, 1950.



In November, 1899, the abstract company put in a crosswalk from that office to the courthouse, and about a week later Mr. Temmey had a walk put across Main street from his store to the abstract office.

Do You Know?

That South Dakota was admitted to the Union of States on November 2, 1889, being the fortieth state?

That applause at the conclusion of the "Star Spangled Banner" is out of place?

That the flag should not be raised before sunrise nor allowed to fly after sunset?

That the flag should be displayed on Memorial Day at half staff until noon, and then raised to the peak until sunset?



The Rev. Dean family lived in the Frank Brigham house in the early days later the Lister house and now the home of Mr. and Mrs. L. A. Fosness. Rev. Dean was the Methodist minister. Mrs. Dean sang in the choir and taught Sunday School bringing all five of their young children to Sunday School and church.



D. Q. Jordan, who was one of the first settlers, opened a real estate office in the Cole Drug building, March 23, 1889. In 1884, Brigham and Kirchgraber, contractors, built a home for the Jordan family where the Luther Nelsons now live. It is the original Jordan home with many changes and improvements made.



Original D. Q. Jordan Home. Pictured left to right—Mr. Jordan and Frank in buggy, Mrs. Jordan, Ethel and Addie.

Mr. and Mrs. John Quade

Mr. and Mrs. John Quade came to Sully County in March, 1908, from David City, Nebraska, and settled in Lincoln Township. They purchased a farmstead where they lived for 37 years. They lived on their son, John's, place for two years, before moving to Onida in January, 1947. Mr. and Mrs. Quade built a new home in the fall of 1953, and celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary the following year. Mr. Quade passed away in May, 1955, and Mrs. Quade continues to make her home in Onida. Altogether, she has taught school 17 years. Her son, John A., is married and lives in Paso Robles, California. They have a daughter, Mary Margaret, age 10. John is administrator at a high school in Paso Robles.



William Toomey built the Emelia Rivenes house. The Toomey family lived there until it was sold to H. E. Kimmel, who planted the first cottonwood tree in Onida that lived.



Original Lillibridge Home. Frank Lillibridge built this house, which was also the home of the M. L. French family, and now the Paul Sack home. Pictured—Mrs. French, holding white parasol with baby daughter, Vera, on her arm. Son, Leon, in a wheel chair to the right.

Onida streets received a coat of gravel in the early spring of 1930. Some was a re-graveling job and other blocks were graveled for the first time. There were still a few left to gravel.



Guests at Horace Porter's Birthday Party, about 1900. Pictured back row, Blanche Nelson, teacher. Fourth row, left to right—Florence Ruckle, Clara Ruckle, Ruth Hyde and Mrs. Porter. Third row, left to right—Leo Temmey, Anna Temmey, Mary Holmes, Bess Gropengieser and Nellie Yung. Second row, left to right—Audrey Garner and Melitta Osterkamp. First row, left to right—Ford Cole, Horace Porter, Clifford Howard, William Ruckle, Glen Lilly, Duane Lilly and Ralph Lister.



Mabel Finch Arneson

Mabel Finch Arneson taught school in Onida and various Sully County schools for several years. Then became assistant cashier about 1910 in the First State Bank and later taught school again until she married J. M. Arneson in 1918. They moved to Minneapolis, where their son John, was born. Mr. Arneson passed away in July, 1958.



Onida's First Movie

M. G. Tyler and J. W. Morris opened a movie house at the A. O. U. W. Hall in 1910, called the Bijou. It proved to be a very popular source of recreation. Miss Inga Nordress was the first pianist, followed by Mrs. Frank Worley. In March of



Addie Jordan, five-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. D. Q. Jordan. Now Mrs. Addie J. Williamson.

the following year, the movie house was sold to Johnson and Nelson. Other pianists to add interest to the silent movies were Miss Hattie Johnson (Mrs. Frank Hoover) and Miss Marguerite Budde. The Bijou closed in January, 1912.



The Onida depot, section house and stockyards were completed in August, 1910. The first depot agent was J. W. Morris.



Otis French and M. G. Tyler were the first ones to have motorcycles in Onida, back in 1910.



Mr. and Mrs. M. H. Quimby

Mr. and Mrs. M. H. Quimby came here in 1910, and the following year, he became State's Attorney and held that office for two terms. Then he was County Judge from 1917 to 1925, and then again elected to that position in 1937, which office he held until his death in 1958.

Mrs. Quimby lives in the family home. Their children, four boys and one daughter, all graduated from Onida High School.



The Gropengieser Family. Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Gropengieser and two children, Bess and Fred. Pioneer residents and boosters of Onida and Sully County.



Original William Toomey Home

Mr. and Mrs. Henry D. Yeager

Henry D. Yeager was born August 5, 1858, at Alma, Wisconsin, in Buffalo County, and was a devout member of the Methodist Church.

Mary Bradley Yeager was born in 1858, in Wisconsin, and was married to Henry Yeager on October 18, 1881.

In 1881, the young couple left Wisconsin, and came west to Brookings where they lived on a farm for many years.



The C. W. Holmes Children. Pictured left to right—Frank, Gertrude, Harry and Vivian. Children of Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Holmes, who lived on the old Spencer place.

While residing there, ten children were born to them—Rilla, Della, Elnora, Horace, Ben, Chester, Hilmer, Effie, Tillie and Ida.

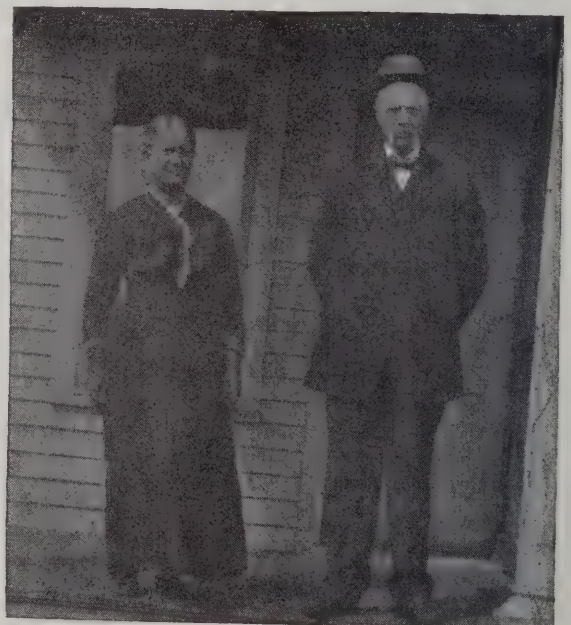
Leaving Brookings in 1900, they moved to a farm near Huron, South Dakota, where they resided for six years. While living there, their youngest daughter, Lucille, was born. After making plans to move they had a sale, and in 1910 they proceeded to Onida, where they have made their home ever since. In order to build a house for his family, Mr. Yeager hauled his lumber with team and wagon from Blunt, South Dakota. He was in the coal business in Onida for a number of years and also in connection managed the Sex-aucr Elevator.

Mr. Yeager passed away on September 13, 1922, at the age of 64 years and Mrs. Yeager passed away two years later in 1924, at the age of 66.

There are six survivors of the Yeager family—Mr. Hilmer Yeager, Onida; Mrs. Effie Larson, Blunt, South Dakota; Mrs. Tillie Ernster, Bonilla, South Dakota; Mrs. Ida M. Johnson, Casper, Wyoming, and Mr. B. H. Yeager, Reno, Nevada.



The C. W. Holmes family left here in September, 1910, for Owatonna, Minnesota.



Mr. and Mrs. Henry D. Yeager

**Wilbur Dunlap
Hauling Coal
in 1910 for
steam breaking
outfit in Onida.**



Mr. and Mrs. William Durrstein

Mr. and Mrs. William Durrstein came here from Doland, South Dakota, in 1919. He was in partnership with Harry Thomas on a farmsite in Buffalo Township until 1928.

Mr. and Mrs. Durrstein purchased the Huffman house in Onida in 1920, and made their home here for many years. Their daughter, Marjorie, was born April 19, 1924. She graduated from Onida High School and State College, Brookings, and was an airline hostess until her marriage to Dr. Richard Herrmann, of Denver, on September 7, 1949. The Herrmanns have two daughters, Jill, 8, and Kit, age four.

Mr. Durrstein passed away April 30, 1940, and his wife, Frances, on December 9, 1957, while she was with her daughter.



Two Fires in Six Years

In a period of approximately six years Onida had two major fires. On a Friday

forenoon November 12, 1919, the first big loss occurred when the J. C. Johnson building occupied jointly by the Sutton-Bauman general store and the Rumrill Pool Hall burned down. The small hose cart used to fight fire at that time was rushed to the scene; also fire extinguishers were used. The fire seemed to be under control when they realized the inaccessibility of its source was such that it was impossible to keep it confined to the pool hall. Stock was removed from all nearby buildings and the Corner Store. Other businesses effected were Johnson & Spears, Close Drugstore, Watchman office, Garner office, First State Bank and Knight's Store, all frame structures.

Streams of water were shot into the flames from the top of the Johnson and Spears building with just a three-foot alley separating it from the burning structure.

Two fortunate circumstances saved the rest of the block. First, the burning building was steel lined both inside and



**Hilmer Yeager Family About
1915.**



The 1919 Fire that destroyed the Sutton-Bauman Store on the corner, and the Rumrill Pool Hall, adjoining.

out and this helped to confine the blaze to the one building. Secondly, the wind changed direction and blew the flames away from the other buildings. The building was destroyed completely and everyone lost heavily in stock damage too hastily removed from the other businesses in the danger zone.

The second devastating fire occurred on Sunday morning, September 13, 1925, when the fire bell called the people down to Main street and found the City Garage in flames. Soon the garage was a mass

of flames with smoke from the burning oil making it impossible to get near. The fire boys then turned their attention to saving the Knight Store which stood just south of the garage. On the north were the two meat markets, both frame buildings, which the boys were unable to save.

A call for help was sent to the fire departments of Pierre, Blunt, and Gettysburg and they responded nobly. The loss was about \$20,000, divided as follows: Dr. B. M. Hart, garage and buildings, \$7,000; McGuire Brothers & Haverly, stock



The 1925 Fire originating in the City Garage, just north of Knight's Store, that completely burned three business buildings.

and six cars burned, \$5,000; John Nelson building, \$3,000; C. I. Jones, stock and building, \$1,500; Jim Nystrom building, \$3,000; Lyons & Nystrom, fixtures and stock \$1,000; M. B. Knight Store, damage, \$1,000.

Before the fire was cold, Lyons and Nystrom secured the Serbousek building where the Marcelling Shoppe was located and were back in business. C. I. Jones secured the Sutton-Bauman building back on the alley. John Nelson had the contractors figuring on a brick and tile building to be built at once.

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UNITED STATES SENATE

Washington, D. C.

To the Community of Onida,
South Dakota

Dear Friends:

I am extremely proud and happy on the occasion of Onida's Diamond Jubilee to extend my heartiest congratulations to the city for its outstanding record of achievement and progress in building a growing, prosperous and bustling community as Onida is today.

During this commemoration, we are especially grateful to those pioneers of vision and foresight who made the many sacrifices necessary to settle Onida and Sully County. We all recognize the importance of those sacrifices, and see the results around us. It was this same pioneer spirit that made South Dakota, and our nation, great. Recognition should certainly be given to the many community-spirited citizens who have worked so long and arduously to make the celebration such a success.

Wishing you the very best during Onida's Diamond Jubilee, I am, with best wishes

Cordially yours,
Karl E. Mundt,
U. S. Senator

☆ ☆ ☆

Twenty new steel light posts were installed in Onida during the month of September, 1931. Curb and gutters were also added at that time.

☆ ☆ ☆

Miss Bessie Bagby of Grandview closed her winter term of school in the Green district, Okobojo, in 1901.



The Merriate Bridge Club organized in 1930.

Picture taken at the Nattress cabin at Sully Lake. Pictured top—Marie Fanton. Second row, left to right—Clarissa Hardwick and Dinnie Nattress. Third row, left to right—Elsie Kottke, Elsie Lindell and Edna Larsen. Bottom—Rhoda Hyde.

☆ ☆ ☆

Worst Sandstorm In History

Oldtimers who had spent fifty years in this section of South Dakota put on their thinking caps when the fiercest of dust storms ever seen here subsided somewhat, and they all came to the conclusion that never before had they witnessed such a spectacle where gravel, dirt and sand penetrated into every place and every building on farm and in the city on November 12, 1933.

The storm began at dawn and a hard wind was blowing when our people got out of bed that morning.

During the forenoon almost total darkness at times ensued and it was necessary at times to use artificial light to see in buildings.

The darkness increased towards noon and continued during most of the afternoon. Many people became alarmed and wondered what it was all about, some thinking the world had come to an end.

Housewives realized early that there was a task ahead of them—the likes of which they had never before experienced. Sand and dust had penetrated everywhere. The preliminary work in most homes was done Sunday night and many worked late to get some semblance of cleanliness back

into their customarily neat domiciles, and to dig out enough of the dirt so that the family could go to bed with some degree of comfort.

Monday morning the full fury of the sixty-mile an hour dust and sand storm was fully realized. Pots and pans and everything that was loose around the place had wandered far away and those at the end of the street often had wash boilers, dish pans, and what have you, belonging to their neighbors often blocks away. The sidewalks were covered with layers of sand and dust and in order to clean them it was necessary to use shovels to scoop the dirt off.

It must be said, however, that no one was hurt. Automobiles moved about cautiously with their lights on in broad daylight. Some of them were stranded with sand accumulating in their carburetors. Any one walking a few blocks was sanded from head to toe. Surely it was a queer storm and one that will be remembered as the worst sand and dust storm in the history of South Dakota.



City Auditorium Completed

The Onida City Auditorium, a 50x100 foot structure, erected in 1936, is located directly across the street from the Masonic Hall. It occupies a choice position in regard to the people of Onida.

It has been the scene of many dances, banquets, programs, plays, basketball games, area gatherings and other meetings requiring a large hall.

This auditorium was made possible

by a federal W. P. A. project, for which the government furnished 30 per cent and the City of Onida, having voted a \$9,100 bond issue, covered the balance.

The dedication dance was held on August 31, 1936, with an estimated crowd of about one thousand. Jimmy Barnett and his orchestra furnished the music for this memorable event.

In connection with the success of the auditorium's opening night was the hard work, thought and time devoted by Mayor Max Rodman and the members of his committee which included Maynard Knox, O. C. Hortman, W. G. Abbott, L. C. Ridinger, J. M. Reedy and C. W. Nattress.



Tornado Hits Onida and Surrounding Area

A pitch-black sandstorm hit Onida on Tuesday evening, August 18, 1936, about 10:30, and the wind, meantime, blew into this wild freak of nature with redoubled energy. Between lulls the wind would pick up new courage, shaking buildings, pushing in window panes, snapping limbs off trees and scattering out-buildings over distances of a block or more. Soon a heavy rain set in accompanied by hailstones. Members of families were forced to plug up the holes left by broken window panes with blankets, pillows or whatever was handy. After about fifteen minutes of this mad game in Onida, the storm continued on to do more damage in the country.

Reports from the country east of Onida revealed that Johnny Hofer's silo was on the ground; the electric highline down for long stretches; the Joe Naughton garage gone; Pete Unruh's garage blown



Onida City Auditorium

away; Abe Goosen's garage disappeared; Wallace Fritz's garage gone, hog shed blown away and much precious hay torn out of the stacks and blown away; Benny Klingbeil's barn torn to shreds, hog house and garage torn away; a mile further north Carmel Larson's windmill was down and sheds blown away. The Mennonite Church six miles east of Onida was torn from its foundation and turned completely around.

The wind struck hard at the former Ray Hall place near Dakin's where the silo and a shed were completely demolished. John Gross lost his chickens and many of his buildings. Harvey Huffman reported the loss of good feed. Mrs. Florence Thomas' place was severely hit and several buildings a total loss. Dr. Hedman thought his place was coming down when the largest of his smokestacks tumbled onto the roof breaking eight rafters. Art and Harold Svenson lost their chicken coops and over a hundred young turkeys. D. J. Post lost his windmill and also half of his barn. Much of the damage was not reported.



Local Ladies Attend European Farm Women Conference

Mrs. Alice Ludwig and Mrs. George Nelson departed August 21, 1947, for Sioux Falls on the first lap of their European trip. They were overnight guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Bauman, before leaving for Washington, D. C., and New York City, where they were scheduled to visit before sailing on the S. S. Queen Mary for England, Holland, Belgium and France. They attended the Fifth Annual Conference of Associated Farm Women of the World at Amsterdam, and together with other delegates, visited points of interest in all four countries.



Local People Shareholders In Bonanza Oil Well

The sale of stock by shareholders of Bonanza Oil Company meant \$7,315,000 to about 220 South Dakotans. Of that total, more than \$2,000,000 went to Pierre and Onida residents, and \$1,800,000 to Huron investors.

Paul Forney, Pierre, with more than half a million dollars in cash, after taxes, was South Dakota's biggest winner. Right behind him was Wilber Day with more

than 22,000 shares. Other local stockholders with 2,000 to 15,000 shares included Gordon Day, John W. Day, Mrs. Margaret Demery, Mrs. Wanda M. Hall, Elroy Rivenes and Charles E. Schultze. Stockholders with less than 2,000 shares included William Allison, Chas. E. Byrum, Ruthe and Maurice Hare, Alfred, Elmer and Jacob Mosiman, Verne Nelson and Dale Uhl.



Luther Nelsons Tour Europe

Mr. and Mrs. Luther Nelson and the latter's brother, Dr. Paul A. Eke, of Moscow, Idaho, sailed from New York City for Europe on the luxury liner, the Queen Mary, on April 20, 1949. The Queen Mary docked at Southampton, England, and from there they made their first stop in London before going to Geneva, Switzerland and Paris, France. After viewing the wonders of "Gay Paree" the party went to Stockholm, Sweden, to visit relatives for the remaining time of the 21-day tour. Mr. Nelson was born near Stockholm, Sweden and this was his first visit since he left there as a young child. They were guests at the home of his cousin, Mrs. Ida Wahlman, who visited in Sully County during the 1930's. While on the tour, Dr. Eke observed agricultural conditions abroad for the University of Idaho, of which he was a faculty member. The party returned to America aboard the Queen Elizabeth, leaving Southampton, England, on June 23.



Artesian Well Folds Up After 43 Years

Onida was confronted with an acute water shortage in the spring of 1954 when one of the wells, supplying the needs of local residents, went dry. The deep well which folded up had supplied good water to the residents of Onida for nigh on to forty-three years before giving out. Drilling of a new well was a necessity.

In July a new artesian well was completed by the Independent Drilling Company. Five hundred gallons per minute was the flow. Drilling operations were completed at a depth of 2,111 feet and an abundant flow of water was brought in with enough pressure to force it up into the water tower through a three-inch pipe without pumping. In February, 1955, how-



Oh's and ah's were numerous as local residents visited the scene of the new city water supply in July, 1954. Clarence Chase, local baker, is shown kneeling on the platform beside the uncontrolled flow of water. The flow from the eight-inch pipe raised about 18 inches above the surface before tumbling away. A good sized lake was formed in the lowland to the northwest of the city power plant before the well was placed under control and turned into the city water system. A common remark pertaining to the quality of the water was: "You have to break the water with a hammer, but we have lots of it."

ever, water started flowing on the outside of the casing as the result of a break in the eight-inch pipe, about 200 feet below the ground surface. The problem became even more drastic when water started coming from the ground about fifty feet north of the well.

Attempts were made to recase the well, but this failed when wellmen were unable to sink new pipes due to unaccountable obstructions. Eventually it was decided that recovery was impossible and the only remaining course was to plug the well.

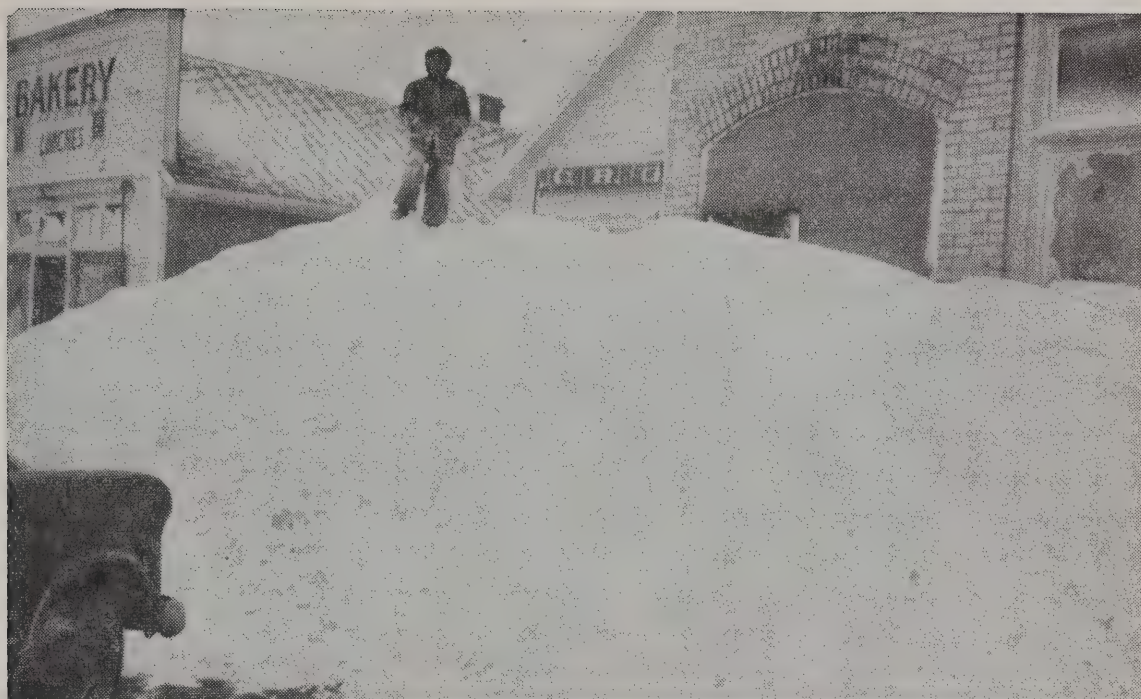
In September, 1956, a crew of nationally-known well cementers forced 875 sacks of cement into the well, mixed with fuel oil to repel dilution, but little or nothing was accomplished and the uncontrolled flow continued as it had for over a year. This adventure cost the city a tidy sum and more was to come.

With continued hope of plugging the wild well, workmen forced about 600 cubic feet of shredded Redwood fibre down its "throat" in February, 1958, along with twelve truckloads of sawdust mixed with water. This procedure was also of no avail.

Two More Attempts To Plug Well Fail

In what was planned to be an all-out attempt to subdue the flow, during May, 1958, a dry hole was drilled alongside the wild well and connection was made by blasting across into the wild well at a depth of about 1400 feet. Through this circulation arrangement, hundreds of gallons of heavy mud and cement grout were pumped and resulted in slowing the flow to about 30 gallons per minute, but not for long. In a very short time the normal flow of between 400 and 500 gallons returned. The next day another 300 sacks of cement mixed with water, making about 3,500 gallons of mixture, were forced into the well in about fifteen minutes' time. The results of both attempts were about the same. Workmen now knew that they were dealing with a sizeable cavity located about 200 feet under ground surface. The well still flows on while engineers ponder ways and means of mastering the now famous Onida Wild Well.

The State Water Resources Commission, the State Highway Department, the Governor's Emergency Fund and the City of Onida each contributed \$7,000 in the last two attempts to plug the well.



Snowbank in front of Watchman Office in 1955

Wild Well Has Its Compensations

Despite the efforts of men, machines and thousands of dollars, the well still flows on unrestricted, although the flow is now about half its original output. All is not bad, however. The flow from the well meanders to the northwest where a forty-to-fifty acre lake has been formed, which is a haven for waterfowl and a hunters' paradise early in the fall before the freeze-up.



Onida Included In Winter's Fury

Sully County was in the path of a vicious blizzard the week end of February 15, 1955, and when the storm abated late Sunday evening an estimated 12 inches of snow had been packed into huge drifts, literally burying some business places and homes in Onida. The storm began Friday and reached its peak Saturday night and Sunday. Most of Sunday's visibility, due to swirling snow whipped up by 60-mile-an-hour gales, was zero. The temperature hovered just above zero during the height of the blizzard. Drifts ranging from three to six feet clogged the main thoroughfares and streets in the residential area. There were no reports of human suffering, although livestock took quite a

mauling, and the pheasant population suffered a severe loss.

The scene above was taken in front of the Watchman office as the vicious storm was subsiding late Sunday afternoon. The huge drift practically covered the Watchman's main entrance and had R. L. Koenig and C. R. Garner completely shut out of their office. The Watchman family trenched their way out of the building Sunday evening, but it required a tractor with a mechanical scoop to unload the entrance to the Garner Real Estate and Insurance building. Oh, yes, the publisher's son, Jim, managed to "plow" his way into the picture.

Local Boys Trapped

The only incident reported of near tragedy here occurred Saturday evening when the car driven by George Reynolds, accompanied by Bob Yackley, went into a ditch at a point about two and a half miles south of Onida on Highway 83. The boys had reconciled themselves to sitting out the storm when Mr. and Mrs. Emel Johnson and son Melvin came along and noticed their plight. The victims accompanied the Johnsons home where they stayed until Monday morning. Following the storm, temperatures swooped steadily and hit a new low of 22 below.



Local Water Witcher Demonstrates Art. Pictured left to right—Tom Merrill, Irene Becker, Connie Doyle, Kristi Phares, Judy Hanks, Shirley Ripley, Dorothy Johnson, Noreen Huxall, Jean Kennedy, Maurice Huxall, Wayne Hughart, Roger Lomheim, Virginia Hughart, Jerry Zebroski, Jim Thompson, John Knox, Elton Erp, Frank Sack, and Carol Terbush in the foreground holding the water witching willow.

Young Onida Waterwitcher

Carol Terbush, 12-year-old sixth grader of Onida, is shown above demonstrating her super-natural power in witching for water to her classmates during a science demonstration period one afternoon in April of 1955. As may be seen in the photo, the entire class held the magical willow sticks in their hands, but none could feel any unusual "pull" on their hands when Carol pinpointed a spot and said, "There is water here, the vein runs this way (motioning with her hands.)" Carol became widely known for her ability as a water witcher and her percentage of "strikes" has been reported as uncanny. Only last year she selected a spot for a well at Lake Louise, near Miller, for the State Game, Fish and Parks Department, after several previous efforts had resulted in dry holes. Carol's wizardry has been carried in news stories from coast to coast. Late last fall an associate editor of the New York Times contacted the Watchman editor by telephone verifying a news story which that paper was preparing to release.

Way back in 1883, people in Sully County were also water witching with a small willow stick in locating their wells. This procedure of finding water is an old custom.



Methodist Church Destroyed By Fire

The fire that completely destroyed the First Methodist Church in Onida on November 27, 1955, was apparently caused from the coal-burning heating plant in the basement. The blaze had gained such headway by the time it was discovered about 6:45 p.m., that Onida firemen were helpless to bring the inferno under control. An explosion, apparently from accumulated coal gases, occurred just moments after Rev. Frescoln approached the building with the intention of entering. He had just noticed the blaze and was leaving to turn in the alarm when the blast took place. The concussion was so great that it tumbled him forward. "Debris flew all around," he said. Moments after, the entire building was aflame and 30 minutes later it was all over. The church was gone.

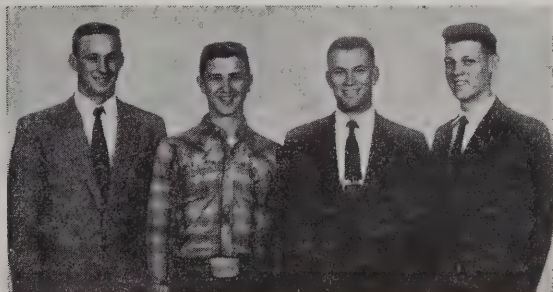


Methodist Church Burns. The north wall of the burning Methodist church was about to collapse when the picture was taken. The roof had already fallen in and the entire building was an inferno. The crack in the building was caused by the explosion.

The Cellar Dwellers

A group of boys who lived together, studied together and played together through four years of high school, headquartered in the basement of the John Sutton home. These young men represent third year generations of South Dakota pioneers.

Bob Sargent, son of Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Sargent of western Sully County,



The Cellar Dwellers. Pictured left to right —Robert Sargent, Kenneth Sutton, George Reynolds and Dan Eliason.

is now managing his parents' ranch.

Ken Sutton is attending college at Brookings, helps on his parents' ranch and plans to return to the ranch when he completes college. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. John Sutton of west Sully County.

George Reynolds is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Garrett Reynolds. They homesteaded in southeast Sully County. George studied for three years on aviation mechanics and is now in the army.

Dan Eliason is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Art Eliason of Potter County, whose grandparents were among the first homesteaders. He is attending the Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah.

The close friendship of these young men began before their school days.



Kenneth Sutton was selected for Sears, Roebuck Scholarship at South Dakota State College in 1957.



Big Game Hunters Return Home. A party of local big game hunters returned on October 27, 1955, with their kill after a 10-day hunting trip in the Rockies of Colorado. Pictured above, left to right—Herschel Ellis, Dale Uhl, Dick Matzen, Jerry Culey and O. C. Hortman, and the two deer and two black bear bagged during the hunt. Charlie Danks, also in the party, remained in Colorado. The hunters lived in a tent and did their own cooking. One of the party said, on their return, "For some reason, bacon and eggs have lost their appeal." Matzen had the honor of bagging the 300-pound bear and her cub.

Half Million In Building Work

A mild building boom was under way in Onida in the early fall of 1957, which totaled about a half million dollars before the projects were completed.

Among the larger construction projects were the new grade school and auditorium-gymnasium; a 400,000-bushel addition to the Oahe Grain Corp. elevator, making a capacity of about 900,000 bushels, new service station, tire display room and cafe, and new city sewer lagoon and disposal plant improvements.



The old grade school building will be disposed of and the full city block will be broken up into 25-foot lots, appraised and sold.

THE WHITE HOUSE Washington

Honorable L. W. Lemmel
Mayor of Onida
Onida, South Dakota

Through Senator Karl E. Mundt, I have learned of Onida's 75th Anniversary, and it is a pleasure to join its citizens and neighbors in Sully County in the observance of this event.

Located in the rich prairie lands of South Dakota and settled by pioneers of strength and vision, Onida has enjoyed many years of community life. It is fitting that the people of Sully County take part in celebrating this anniversary of their county seat.

Congratulations and best wishes.

DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER



Onida Cowgirl Places at Rodeo. Buena Sutton, above, was the only Onida girl competing at the State H. S. Rodeo held in June, 1957, at New Underwood. She placed in two events.



One of the main events of the Sully County Fair in 1938 was the Old Settlers' Picnic. That year marked the 50th anniversary of this organization in Sully County. The program committee planned entertainment for everyone and featured as the speaker of the program was Leo Temmey of Huron, well known to Sully County people.



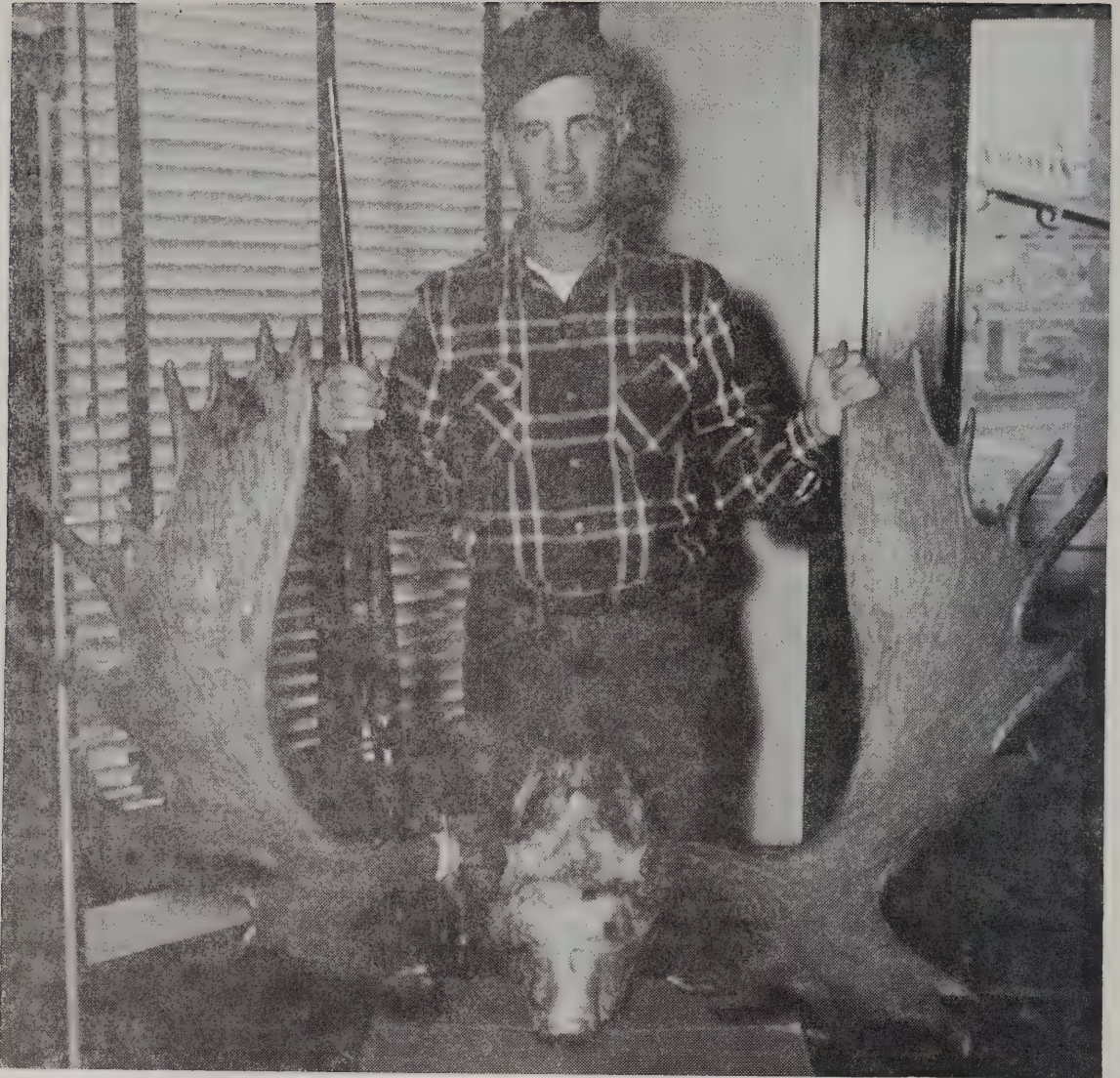
DO YOU KNOW THAT...

That Onida grew faster, from 1883 through 1919, than any town in South Dakota, and that the growth had just begun?

Mrs. Alice Adams, who was 85 years old in the year 1946, and an early-day resident of Sully County, had during her lifetime, marked the progress of the pioneer west as expressed or typified in transportation. From the early day ox team, through horse-drawn carriages and later, automobiles, Mrs. Adams experienced all modes of travel. The culmination occurred on Sunday, April 28, 1946, when she took her first airplane ride. Going aloft with Dwight Poage, who piloted his own craft.



Big Fish Pays Off. A Canadian fishing expedition early in June of 1955 paid off when Preston Starbuck was notified that his 39-pound lake trout, (pictured above) hooked in Lac la Ronge, Saskatchewan, was a winner. It was the largest fish entered in the derby of any caught in the Province during the summer. Starbuck received a huge, properly inscribed certificate and a check for \$25 for making the prize-winning catch.



"Matt" Sutton Bags Wyoming Moose. John (Matt) Sutton Jr., pictured above with his prize trophy, perhaps rates the top big-game hunting honors for this area during the hunting season in 1955. The huge rack of antlers was the proud possession of a 1200-pound moose shot by Sutton in the Upper Green River area of Wyoming on October 25. It was said to have been the largest moose taken from the area that season. Sutton had to fire three bullets into the animal from a distance of about 100 yards to make the kill. The antler spread measures $48\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide and the palms are 34 inches long, which is said to be an outstanding feature in rating moose antlers, as was the $7\frac{1}{2}$ -inch circumference at the base of the antler. The animal was judged to be about nine years old with 11 points on each antler.



Population Up In Sully

It is interesting to note that Sully County showed an increase in population of 1.7 per cent in 1950 over 1940, and that there were 2,713 people in the county, according to the 1950 census. Other statistics showed that 35.5 per cent lived in rural non-farm areas and 64.5 per cent in farm areas. The median age in Sully was 26.3, and 5.8 per cent of the population were over 65 years of age. The report

the Bureau of Census also showed that there were 1,108 in the labor force of the county. The median income was \$3,019, and 32.7 per cent of the residents had an income of less than \$2,000. The figures also showed that, of the 2,713 people in Sully County, 1,452 were men and 1,261 were women, with 1,575 of the total being 21 years of age or over.

An Expert With A Spinning Wheel

Mrs. Minnie Schriever, 81-year-old pioneer resident of Sully County, and a resident of Onida for about 14 years, is an expert with a spinning wheel. She is very modest and almost shy in talking about her wool-spinning abilities, as quite often experts are. Many of her friends are aware of her capabilities, but only a few actually ever witnessed her at work.

It was never a problem for Mrs. Schriever to have an ample supply of good virgin wool yarn on hand for knitting mittens, gloves, socks, scarves and other apparel for her family of five children and her friends. She was never content to have the raw product brought to her, but instead she, along with her husband, raised sheep and did their own shearing.



"30-Dollar" Stole. Ardis Gatons, retiring county treasurer, was presented with a 30-dollar stole by her fellow workers at a farewell party given in her honor on Jan. 1, 1957. The stole consisted of one dollar bills cleverly sewed into a cellophane sheet, with the names of each contributor attached. Mrs. Gatons served the county honorably and faithfully for 13 years; five as register of deeds, four as auditor, and four as treasurer.



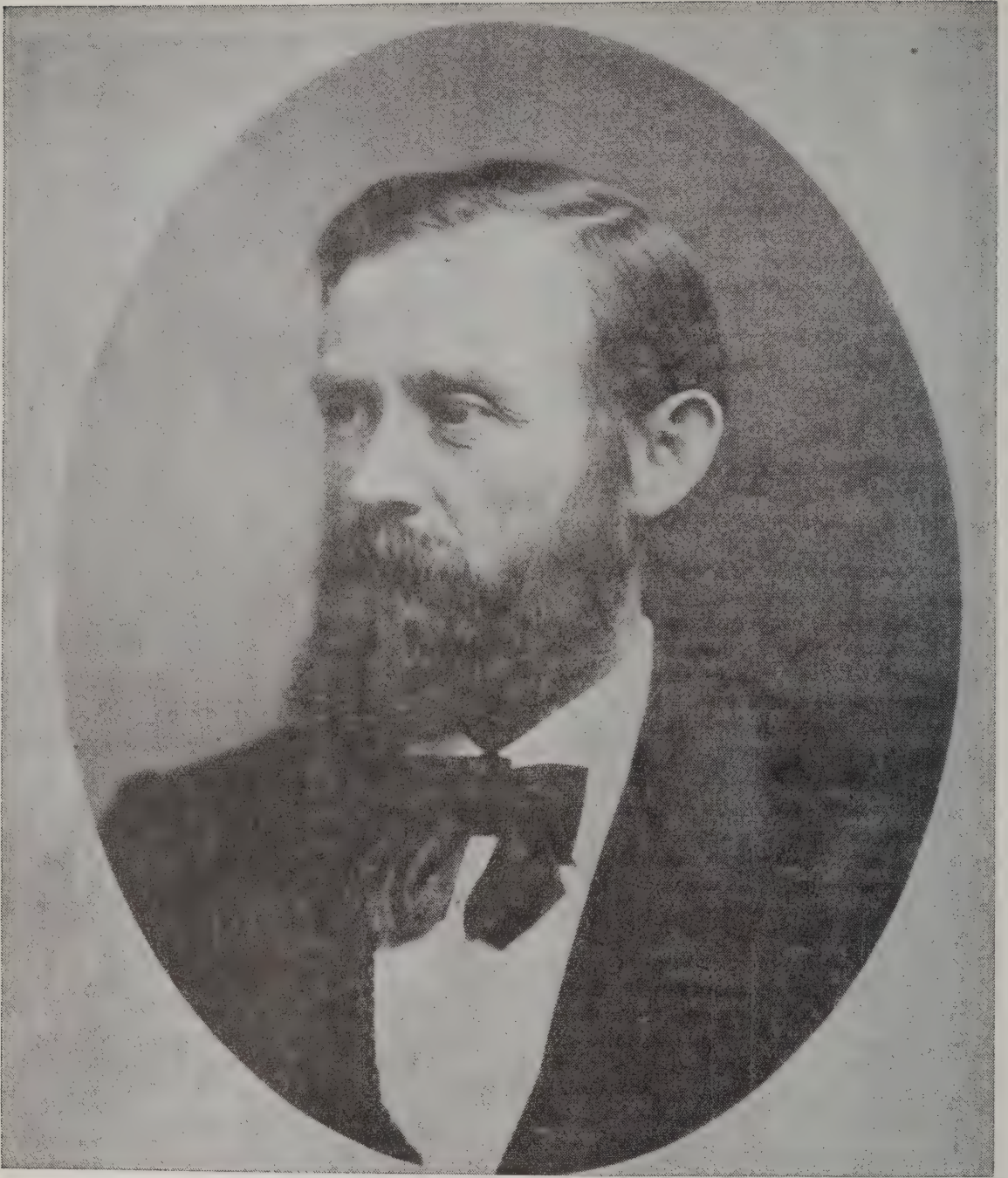
Mrs. Minnie Schriever. An expert with a spinning wheel.

She then took the wool through the various processes of carding, spinning and washing the finished product ready for knitting.

Mrs. Schriever came to this country from Germany when she was 14 years old and settled near Gettysburg with her parents. After her marriage, she and her husband moved to a farm in Richvalley Township near Onida where they lived for over 50 years.



Approximately 250 people attended the airplane weed spraying demonstration held July 8, 1947, one-half mile north of Onida. The demonstration was sponsored by the Sully County Extension agent and the Geo. P. Sexauer & Son elevators, and the land which was sprayed belonged to Gordon Day and operated by John Bauman. The spraying was done at a cost of \$4.00 per acre.



CHARLES H. AGAR
For Whom Agar Was Named

Agar and Its Origin

It was in the spring of 1909, that the Chicago and Northwestern Railway Company made a public announcement that it planned to extend its lines from Gettysburg, South Dakota, through Sully County to connect with its main line at Blunt, South Dakota.

Because of the railroad extending its line through that portion of Sully County and also because of the rich farm land in that area, the Western Town and Lot Company, on October 27, 1909, platted out a townsite at a point one and a half miles from both the east and south lines of Milford Township, consisting of nine blocks and outlots, on 80 acres of land purchased from Fred Peterson, one of the earliest settlers of Milford Township. Another 80 acres were purchased from F. L. Clark.

Sale of Lots

Lots for the new town were offered for sale at a nominal price, in order to avoid speculation, on the homestead of Charles H. Agar (present Josh Hofer farm) and the town was thus named in his honor.

On May 12, 1910, P. M. Kennedy, of Huron, South Dakota, purchased Lot One, Block Seven (present site of Sorenson's Store). On the same day, J. B. Bessire purchased two lots, Lot 12, Block Four (Mike Smith's Station) and Lot 13, Block Two (present site of Phyllis Wagner's home). Then on May 24, L. A. Temmey purchased Lots 17 and 18, Block Six (now owned by Merle Von Wald). The sale of lots continued and by August 1, 1910, when the railroad company made its first run, the little town had already erected several buildings.

Business Flourished That First Year

The enterprising little Village of Agar mushroomed on the prairie when the Chicago and Northwestern Railway Company "gave the nod" that their track would be extended to Blunt.

There was a hustle and bustle in the newly-born town that fittingly foreshadowed the importance of Agar as a producing farming center. Eight teams of horses were busy from early morning until late at night hauling heavy loads of lumber from Gettysburg, day after day, in order to satisfy the needs of 30 busy carpenters.

Seventeen buildings were under construction at one time and six plasterers were busy continuously all spring and summer.

By March of the following year, 1911, exactly ten months from the time of the first sale of lots, the population of Agar boasted 84 bonafide citizens, besides several transients; 74 lots had been sold, and 36 good substantial buildings had been erected. Every business place was equipped with a gas plant for heating purposes and five of the business places had concrete walks.

Also, within those same ten months, two banks, two general stores, hardware store, drug store, hotel, restaurant, meat market, pool hall, two lumber yards, two elevators, postoffice, newspaper and job printing office, telephone and telegraph, express office, millinery store, real estate office, two farm implement dealers, cream station, livery barn, sales stable, blacksmith shop, depot, section house and stockyards were doing a thriving business. Thirteen private residences had also been constructed during that short space of time.

From October 1, 1910, to March, 1911, a period of about six months, seven carloads of cattle, seven of hogs, three of sheep, two of horses, 26 of wheat, six of flax and six of hay were shipped out of Agar.

Early Settlers Establish Business Places

Some of the first settlers to arrive in Agar to make their homes and establish businesses were the L. P. Christiansons, Carl Falkenhagens, P. M. Kennedys, Ed F. Ryans, Ira Cole, J. B. Bessires, Frank and Karl Mitchells, A. S. Clouse, Sam Jarvis, A. V. Goodrichs and Seward Leepers.

L. P. Christianson and his son, Hans, of Yale, South Dakota, arrived the week of May 15, 1910, and started the first livery barn and feed stable, a 40x64 foot building. Hans had charge of the draying and express. Mr. Christianson also built a pool hall, 24x70 feet, which he operated for many years.

Carl Falkenhagen, to whom the honor of the second man of the original settlers must go, arrived shortly after the Christiansons. He erected a general store

**Interior of Carl
Falkenhagen's
General Store, 1910**
Left to right —
Miss Sadie Pope,
Mr. Falkenhagen,
J. P. Bessire and
Rube Lumsden.



which he operated for about two and a half years.

P. M. Kennedy, of Huron, South Dakota, also arrived in May of that first year, and soon had a general store erected. He and his family of eight children lived in the rear of the store.

Ed F. Ryan, a wide-awake young man built and operated a hardware store in 1910. Mr. and Mrs. Ryan had the distinction of having the first baby born in Agar on September 6, 1910. He was named Francis, and at the present time is states attorney and living in Onida.

Josephine Ryan, a sister of Ed Ryan, established a restaurant on Ash street.

Another "first" building to be erected was the drug store, operated by Ira W. Cole, located next to the Falkenhagen Store.

J. B. Bessire was cashier of the Agar State Bank, located on the northwest corner of Sully avenue and Ash street, the first bank to do business in the new town. Other officers were D. B. Wilson, president, and C. L. Johnson, vice president. This bank had a capital stock of \$10,000.00. The vault was fire and wind proof and inside the vault was installed a \$1,300.00 Mangesse burglar proof steel safe and also safety deposit boxes. Mr. Bessire was also agent for several fire and hail insurance companies.

Frank and Karl Mitchell, under the

firm name of Mitchell Brothers, were agents for the Western Town and Lot Company, in charge of the sale of town lots in Agar. Frank was vice president of the newly-formed Farmers State Bank, and Karl was the cashier. Guy E. Mitchell was president of the institution. This bank, with a capital of \$10,000.00, opened in a 12x18 foot shed in which was installed a Victor burglar proof safe.

A. S. Clouse built and operated a European-style hotel, besides managing a meat market and an ice house which held 100 tons of ice for the accommodation of his customers and the public.

Sam F. Jarvis, Jr., was editor of the Agar Argus, the first newspaper which published its first news in July, 1910. Mr. Jarvis was the first postmaster and also manager of the telephone central, telegraph and express office. The postoffice was established on November 5, 1910, in the Milford postoffice building. However, prior to that time, mail was brought by stagecoach to the Walter Price home, the Charles Parker home, the Addie Mundt home, Carl Falkenhagen's Store and Frank Elliotts. Matilda Peterson served as postmaster from 1914 to 1928, Calvin Barber from 1928 to 1932, John Evans from 1932 to 1954, and at that time Sherman Seward took over the duties as postmaster and has continued as such to date.

A. V. Goodrich was manager of the

Atlas Lumber Company, and W. S. Leeper, of Blunt, managed the Interior Lumber Company.

J. A. O'Hair, Agar's first barber, arrived with razor and strop, and for want of a suitable place to practice his "tonsorial art", was offered the office in the Christianson livery barn to use as his barber shop. Mr. O'Hair was also in charge of the DeWald & Walters Elevator when it was completed late in the fall of 1910. The Farmers Elevator, completed in November of that same year, was managed by George C. Williams.

W. H. Harris opened a blacksmith shop and a sales stable. He was a buyer and importer, as well as breeder of fine Percheron and Clyde horses. A. E. Lindbloom and Emil Renz, of Blunt, purchased the Agar Blacksmith Shop from Mr. Harris, and later it was operated by John Dienslake, of Lebanon, South Dakota.

Mrs. J. G. Lillibridge operated the Agar Millinery Store in her home on Railway avenue. Mr. Lillibridge was a painter and paper hanger.

John Frick was general manager of the Mesick-Stangeland Company, well-known implement dealers who located in Agar with a full line of farm machinery, harnesses, wagons and buggies.

Ed Speer opened a cream station and handled poultry and all farm products. He bought his first can of cream on February 27, 1911.



W. H. Harris Sales Stable and Blacksmith Shop

A. W. Peterson established a livery barn and did general team business besides supplying those in need with fine well water.

Richard Naughton and his wife established a restaurant and lodging house on Sully avenue.

E. Schmidt was Agar's first building contractor and owner of a cement mixer run by gas power.

"White Gold" — Agar's First Well

The first artesian well put down in Agar was in May, 1910, by the railroad company which flowed at the rate of 78 gallons per minute. This was truly a well of "white gold", for without water the new Village of Agar could never have prospered.—E. V.



"White Gold"—Agar's first artesian well

Up and Down Ash and Sully

The Falkenhagen General Store was purchased by Al Teglund, a rancher, in 1913. Mr. Teglund operated the store until 1916, when C. E. Garrett, of Miller, South Dakota, purchased it and ran it for 20 years. Then in 1936, Coleman Smith purchased the stock and continued the business until 1943. Mr. Garrett assumed duties as "storekeeper" again and continued in this capacity until 1958. At this time, because of ill health, Mr. Garrett sold the store to Sherman Seward. The postoffice is now located in this building with Mr. Seward as postmaster.

The pool hall, built by Hans Christianson and his father, changed hands in 1925, when R. E. Higgs took over the business. Five years later, in 1930, the building was destroyed by fire and the following year Chris Christianson rebuilt it and operated the pool hall until 1947. It was then sold to John Pexa, who used the upper part as a residence and the basement as the pool hall.

Hans Christianson operated the first bulk station. Ed Bailey drove the bulk truck for several years until February 7, 1941, when Merle Von Wald purchased the business.

The P. M. Kennedy General Store was sold to Lars P. Sorenson, who came from Sauk Center, Minnesota. Mr. Sorenson

operated the store until 1916, when his son, Andrew, purchased it. Andrew conducted a good business until 1954, at which time Maurice, his son, bought the store and stock from his father and continued the general store business. For a few months during the year 1921, the store was closed when Andrew Sorenson traded his business to M. C. Westphal for a farm near Lisbon, North Dakota, and "some to boot". That fall, Bill Naughton and Mr. Sorenson opened the store for business, and by another year's time Andrew was again sole owner of the store.

The Ed Ryan Hardware Store was sold to J. B. Archer in 1919. Mr. Archer conducted this business until 1936, when, due to ill health, he moved the merchandise into a smaller building. Mr. Archer's son, Lloyd, operated a garage in this building.

The Josephine Ryan Restaurant became the Town Hall about 1912, and was later divided in half and made into two houses.

The Drug Store, operated by Ira W. Cole until 1916, was used as a restaurant by L. S. Clouse and later by Ed Murphy. C. E. Garrett used the building as part of his store for many years. The postoffice was located in this building in 1928.

The Agar State Bank changed officers



Interior of Lars P. Sorenson General Store, 1912. Left to right — Mollie Sorenson and her father.

in 1918, when Claude M. Jones became owner and J. E. Schoff, cashier, and continued under this setup until 1925, when it closed. The building was used as a restaurant for about a year by two Wagner girls, Kate and Lillian. In 1926, Mike Smith purchased the building from the State Banking Department and moved it to its present site. Mr. Smith operated a grocery store and meat market there until 1945, when it was used as a cafe operated by Mary Taylor, then by L. D. Carr and later by Melvin Meeker and Leon Beyers.

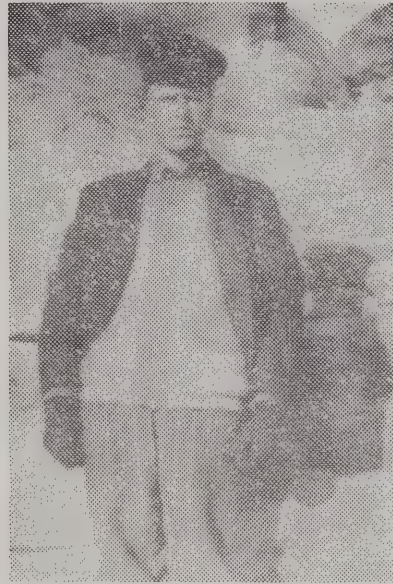
The Farmers State Bank, which opened in a small shed, moved into the first brick building in Agar, and one of the first in Sully County, on January 25, 1911. About 1913, the presidents of the two banks discussed the advisability of closing one bank, so, by a flip of a coin, the Farmers State Bank closed and Mr. Bessire moved his banking business into the brick building as soon as the two businesses were merged. The Agar State Bank continued to operate until 1935, when it closed. Then on March 7, 1946, W. J. Asmussen purchased the brick building and used it for his office.

In 1930, P. J. Murphy organized the Citizens State Bank with P. M. Venner, C. C. Lyons, C. L. Falkenhagen and Charles Byrum as directors. Mr. Murphy, as cashier, operated this bank until it was forced to close in 1925.

The Agar Hotel, operated by A. S. Clouse, was purchased by Roy Harris about 1919, who built an addition on to the building doubling its capacity. Successive proprietors were Les Merrick, Orville Von Wald, John Gere and Mike Clark. The building has since been sold and torn down for scrap lumber.

The Agar Argus, edited by Sam Jarvis, Jr., for about a year, was published by Ole Hess for a short time. Then the Agar Commercial Club revamped the Argus into the Agar Enterprise, hiring a succession of editors. Some of those editors were Frank Weed, who also operated a cream station, Mrs. Charles Ester and Rev. J. D. Stevens, pastor of the Agar Methodist church. In 1920, the paper was sold to Carmen L. Bates, who gave Agar a very creditable newspaper for seven years. On December 1, 1927, he sold to G. J. Zimmer. Phillip Hess was the last

editor of the Enterprise which ceased publication in June of 1951.



W. J. Asmussen, 16 years old

The Farmers Elevator was reorganized and managed by Cal Barber. About 1914, W. J. Asmussen, then a young man, was hired at \$25.00 a month to work there. Other managers were D. H. Curran and later Blaine and Fairbank. The elevator burned in the fall of 1932, when Harold Murray was manager. It was rebuilt the following spring by Atlas and Peavey Company with Art Brosz as the manager. R. W. Wilkens followed as manager from 1943 to 1957, when Henry Eliason assumed the managerial duties. During the time that Wilkens managed the business a large annex was built onto the elevator.

The Sexauer Company of Brookings, South Dakota, built the elevator now managed by Coleman Smith—its first manager being Carl Doerr. From 1927 to 1956, Arthur J. Miller was hired as manager after which Eugene Venner was appointed and managed the business until 1958. The Sexauer Company purchased the DeWald and Walters Elevator building and used it for storage for some time and then had it torn down for lumber which was used to build a large annex onto their elevator. This addition transpired during the time that Miller was manager.

Numerous barbers enjoyed a lucrative business following J. A. O'Hair. They

were a Mr. Durphy, a "Bud" Eddy, Arthur Copp and Goerge Nolan, who operated the barber shop together with a cream station in 1925. Then Frank Schollian purchased the shop and continued in business until the building burned in 1930. At that time he moved into a room in the Christianson building which also housed a restaurant and pool hall. Mr. Schollian served as barber there until the middle forties when he moved to Gettysburg.

The Blacksmith Shop continued to do a thriving business those first few years, and after Mr. Dianslake left, other blacksmiths took over. They were Oliver Wasguard, Albert Wessel and Herman Zeuge, who could play music on his anvil.

About 1920, P. V. Jones built the Agar Auto Company and continued in business until 1930, when he sold his business to Don Spillers, who operated the station until 1954. Art Hoisington operated a garage in the same building. Orville Zuber, who purchased the stock from Mr. Spillers, ran the station from 1954 to 1958, when Leonard Venner purchased the stock and changed the name to Venner's Service.

M. A. Lyons built a hardware and clothing store in 1922, and has continued in business to date.

An early-day land office was operated by Carl Falkenhagen where the Beyers Cafe now stands. During the twenties, Bill Naughton and Al Teglund established

another land office. W. J. Asmussen and Charles Lomheim ran a land office from 1920 to 1928, when it was sold to Othal Walker for a cafe. Glen Bever ran the cafe until the fire in 1930, which destroyed that building, Christianson's Pool Hall and the Barber Shop.

In the spring of 1928, Mike Smith erected a filling station on the corner of Sully avenue and Ash street where the Agar State Bank had been located. His brother, Dick, ran the station. Other proprietors were Robert Blaine, who also had a welding shop, Gary Bliese, Kenneth Smith, Ben Christopher and Lloyd Archer. Leo Weischedel became the owner in 1958.

P. M. Venner built and operated a shoe repair shop and cream station from 1926 until his death in 1935.

J. B. Archer and Howard Hulshizer wired the new business places and residences for electricity in 1920. Mr. Archer operated the light plant in addition to his hardware store. Les Merrick purchased the franchise from Archer and ran the plant for several years after which Newell Bever assumed the job for a number of years. Then George Gerlach and Arthur Olsen operated the plant until 1950, when R. E. A. was installed.

A modern waterworks system was built in 1926, which has served the residents of Agar remarkably well. A tall, graceful structure points skyward revealing to travelers from afar the location of Agar.—E. V.



M. A. Lyons Store. Left to right—Mrs. Tom Sutton, Mrs. John Blaine, Mrs. John Schreiber, Alma Schreiber, Phyllis Wagner, Edith Westphal and Mrs. Isaac Smith.

City Government

The enterprising businessmen felt that the citizens were entitled to modern conveniences and in order to supply these conveniences, it was necessary to organize the town. So on January 18, 1926, the Town of Agar was incorporated, with Claude Jones as chairman of the Town Board, and Pearl Jones and Jim Archer as trustees. Margaret Sunne acted as clerk.

Soon after, a well was dug and water

pipled to each home, and plans were made for 24-hour light service.

A city-owned building houses a Municipal Liquor Store and also the city fire truck and equipment.

The 1958 Town Board members are Floyd Falkenhagen, mayor; Orville Zuber and Leonard Venner, trustees; Lucille Von-Wald, clerk, and Alberta Sorenson, treasurer.

"Alfalfa and Sweet Clover Special"

The "Alfalfa and Sweet Clover Special" stopped at Agar on January 14, 1927, when 467 people were on hand to greet the train which was under the auspices of the South Dakota Crop Improvement Association.

The train's itinerary included 70 stops at towns in the east-river section of South Dakota. The interested group at Agar was the fifth in size of the 16 stops previously made. The train included three exhibit cars, a sweet clover car, machinery car and alfalfa car. Ruth Joachim won first in estimating how many people went through the train.



Attempted Bank Robbery

A desperate attempt was made during the early morning hours of April 2, 1932, to get into the vault and safe of the Agar State Bank, and only the fact that the acetylene torch cutting outfit refused to be part and partner of the attempted robbery, prevented serious damage and actual loss of cash to the bank.

Atlas Elevator Burns

On a cold January 20, 1933, the Atlas Elevator caught fire and gained such headway that all the fighting firemen could do was to protect adjoining property.

The elevator was well filled with wheat, barley and oats and contained approximately 18,000 bushels of grain, according to the estimate of those in charge of the warehouse.

Atlas Elevator Fire.





Busy Corner at Carl Falkenhagen General Store, 1910

STREET SCENES



Driving Into Agar From the West, 1910

. . . Left to right — Atlas Lumber Yard, Seward and Leeper Lumber Yard, Carl Falkenhagen Land Office, Falkenhagen's Store and Drug Store. Foreground showing Mr. Erickson, first depot agent, standing on ladder and washing windows. Working men installing railroad water mains.



View of Agar Looking Northeast, 1910 . . . Carl Mitchell home, Carl Falkenhagen home under construction, A. V. Goodrich home and J. B. Bessire home. Foreground—Carl Falkenhagen Store, Cole Drug Store, Agar Argus, Ed Ryan Hardware Store, Agar State Bank, Josephine Ryan Hotel and Restaurant, P. M. Kennedy Store and L. P. Christianson Pool Hall.



Southwest Corner of Sully Avenue and Ash Street, 1923 . . . Andrew Sorensen Store on the corner, the postoffice to the left and the north half of the hotel.

Looking Southeast along Sully Avenue, 1911 . . . Baseball game in Foreground.



Musical Life In Agar

and Irene, and then Mrs. John Evans. From 1937 to 1941, Pauline (Hanson) Brehe was church pianist, and since 1941, Mrs. Leonard Venner has been pianist and reorganized the choir which remains a sizeable and excellent group. Mrs. Grace (Brehe) Smith was pianist during the summers of 1942 through 1945. The Rev. Earl Butz and the Rev. Robert Frescoln, pastors of the Methodist Church, were well-trained singers.

When the Lutheran Church was built in 1908, Alma (Brandt) Weideman was one of the first organists and later her sister, Margaret (Brandt) Falkenhagen took over. Mrs. Charles Garrett and Mrs. Les Merrick were also organists. In the early 1930's, Rev. Ed Beyer's wife was church organist, and others were Mrs. Frank Schultz and Mrs. Jim Lawrence. Edna Falkenhagen (Mrs. Coleman Smith) played some as a young lady and has been organist for the church for several years. Some of the outstanding choir members during the 1930-1940 years were Mrs. Charles Garrett, Mrs. Frank Schultz, Mrs. Alvin Joachim, Agnes (Iverson) Hagney, Fred Lehmkuhl, Les Swanson, Albert Brehe and Harold Iverson.

Mary Doerr (Mrs. E. L.) was the first organist when the Catholic Church was erected in 1919. She continued in this capacity for many years with Theresa (Venner) Rozum and Eve (Serbousek) Severson substituting. Louise Doerr (Mrs. Francis) then assumed the organist position. Some of the first choir members were the Doerrs, Venners, Naughtons and McCleans.

Miss Lavina Mulligan taught school and gave piano lessons to many youngsters. Les Hurley, from Gettysburg, was one of the first band directors. Charles Garrett, an excellent trumpet player, directed the city and school bands for several years. Mr. Garrett organized and directed a Town Band in the middle 1920's. Besides himself, other members of the band were Mrs. Garrett, Hans and Myrtle Christenson, Howard Doner, Ed Bailey, Marian Grismer, Margaret Sunne, Kate Smith, Marvin Keck, Claude Jones,

Many of the early settlers were musically inclined and their talent was in demand and in readiness for literary societies, home talent plays, churches, funerals, Old Settler's picnics, dances and "just enjoyment".

Mrs. Cliff Howard, one of Agar's early musicians, often played for the Literary Society which was organized in the Town Hall about 1912. Other musical entertainment at those meetings were vocal duets by Mrs. Howard and Mrs. Frank Schultz.

Home talent plays were very popular in those days and at one of the plays, entitled, "Old Maids' Convention", directed by Mrs. Frank Schultz, several vocal solos were sung by Grace (Sutton) Smith. At another play, directed by Mrs. Neal Bever, which was presented at various places in Sully County, little Shirley (Bever) Burns and Edith (Blaine) Smith tap danced.

As in most communities, the church played a prominent part and services were often held in the homes or in a schoolhouse. In 1908, Lora (Parker) Haverly played for church in the schoolhouse which was located where Burnell Kuhrt now live. In 1911-12, church services were held in the Town Hall with Mrs. Cliff Howard as pianist. Frank Schultz and Cy Lyons were two of the early-time choir members.

Maggie Lyons was one of the first pianists for the Methodist Church when it was moved into town from Gettysburg in 1914. During the World War I years and the early 1920's, Mrs. John Blaine was church pianist with Mrs. Ernest Schoof, an excellent soloist, as choir director of an outstanding group of singers; namely, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Garrett, Mr. and Mrs. Blaine Bessire, Mrs. Frank Schultz, Ernest Schoff, Victor Peterson, Claude Jones, Charles Lomheim, the Schreiber girls, Mrs. John Sutton and William Moore. As young ladies, Edna (Falkenhagen) Smith and Amelia (Sorenson) Kunkle, often played for church, Sunday School and Epworth League. From 1930 to 1935, Rev. Grover Bledsoe's wife, Ruby, was pianist, followed by Rev. J. F. Gughin's daughters, Ruth

Francis Doerr, Ernest Schoff, Claude Sutton, Dick and Tom Bouchie, Edith Westphal, Grace (Isaac) Smith, Orville and Charles Fairbank, Maurice Sorenson, Amelia (Sorenson) Kunkle, Marie (Sorenson) McGuire, Edna Smith and Robert Blaine.

Other band directors during the late 1930's were Mervin Fedderson, William Moyer, Harold Riedel and Louis Woodward.

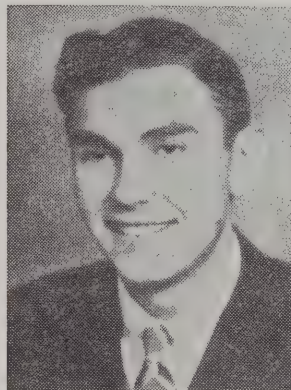
Dances were enjoyed from the early days up to the present time, and it was always a big event to participate in a wedding feast and dance in the homes. Albert Ripley, a violinist, came from Gettysburg to play for these dances and also Dave McCamly, a left-handed violinist, and Sam Traverse, a banjoist, (postmaster at Casper in Cora Township) furnished music for dances. Later, Charles Koenig, a steel guitar player, joined with Mr. McCamly, and still later, Verne Pearson, a banjoist, played with him.

In 1916, a small dance band was organized and enjoyed by the community. Members of this band included Mr. and Mrs. Charles Garrett, Frank Schultz, John Nystrom and Marvin Keck.

In the 1930's, another small dance band was feted at dances. Its members were Edna (Falkenhagen) Smith, Alvin Lyons, Mervin Fedderson and Ed Bailey. During the 1940's and into the 1950's, Edna Smith, Alvin Lyons and Verne Pearson played for many dances. Fern (Lyons) Martin and Flossie (Nystrom) Sutton had a duo-dance band.

A male quartette, composed of Bob Taylor, Larry Venner, Donald Joachim and Bob Schreiber, each an excellent solo-

ist, provided a great deal of musical entertainment in the community. These young men have been popular as a quartette and also as individual soloists throughout Sully County for a number of years, and received honors at music contests during their high school days.



Virgil Mikkelsen. A pleasing tenor soloist since 1940.

Another one of Agar's talented soloists is Virgil Mikkelsen, with a pleasing tenor voice, who has been in demand for musical entertainment since 1940.

During the 1940's and 1950's, some of the community's outstanding singers were Mrs. Ralph Wagner, Mrs. Grace (Sutton) Smith, Mrs. Grace (Brehe) Smith, Mrs. Alvin Joachim and her son Donald, and Jean Schreiber.

Musical life in Agar has been prominent throughout the years and it is commendable that such a small community has had and still has so many outstanding and talented musicians. — E. V.



Male Quartette.

Left to right—Bob Taylor, Larry Venner, Donald Joachim and Bob Schreiber. One of the many groups which placed at Music Contests in Mobridge.

Golden Rule Days



Grade School Students, Class of 1912. Standing, left to right — Marie Falkenhagen, Rosiland Zuber, Lillian Norfolk, Fern Lyons, Miss Lavina Mulligan, (teacher), Mable Westphal, Julia Whiting, Evangeline Zuber and Marie Sunne. Seated — Charlie Fairbank, Orville Fairbank, Albert Clouse, Newell Bever, Alvin Lyons (holding sign), Floyd Falkenhagen, Neil Bever, Dewayne Deyo and Leroy Deyo.

One of the Milford schoolhouses, built in 1885, which had been moved a mile west of the site of Agar in 1908, became Agar's first schoolhouse when it was again moved into the village in 1912, with Miss Lavina Mulligan as the first teacher.

The first children to attend the Agar school were Otto Peterson, Albert Clouse, Leroy and Dwayne Deyo, Floyd and Marie Falkenhagen, Alvin and Fern Lyons, Ver-na and Irvin Sutton, Claude and Edith Sutton, Mabel Westphal, Horace Drew and Ward Barber.

In 1919, Milford Township voted to centralize and have one school in the village of Agar. Bonds were voted and a new school building was completed in the fall of 1921. Miss Ethel Nyhart and Miss Elsie Sutton were hired as the first teachers in the new schoolhouse. Miss Nyhart had taught several high school subjects in the old schoolhouse beginning in 1919, along with Miss Marian Cronin, who was hired in 1920.

The new schoolhouse was a four classroom building with full basement which housed a gymnasium, furnace room and lavatories. The building was steam

heated and equipped with a modern ventilating system.

Mr. and Mrs. S. B. Cook were hired to teach in 1922, and through their diligence, Agar High School was established on a high academic level, and extra curricular activities were added to the school system.

The first graduating class was in the spring of 1923, with Marie (Falkenhagen) Sunne and Theresa (Venner) Rozum sharing the honor of being the first graduates of Agar High School.

Superintendent Hume was administer of the Agar school during the 1925-26 school year, followed by Olaf Clausen, who served as superintendent for three years and also developed the first athletic program in Agar. Mr. Clausen began his term in a new brick high school building with two large classrooms, boys' and girls' cloak rooms, superintendent's office and large assembly room on the second floor. The basement was a story and a half high in order to have sufficient ceiling height for a basketball gymnasium. Other instructors in the new building were Miss Nellie Sheets, Miss Ruth Randall, Miss



Agar's First Schoolhouse, Class of 1916. Front row, left to right— Lillian Norfork, Bessie (Falkenhagen) Venner, Edna (Falkenhagen) Smith, James Norfork, Orville Fairbank, Roy Deyo and Dewanye Deyo. Second row—Harold Norfork, Newell Bever, Neil Bever, Floyd Falkenhagen, Albert Clouse and Charlie Fairbank. Back row— Marie Roslosnik (teacher).

High School Students, Class of 1922. Left to right—Elmer Lehmkuhl, Leroy Olson, Edith (Brehe) Mckenney, Esther Ester, Marie (Falkenhagen) Sunne, Theresa (Venner) Rozum, Hildred (Tegland) Swallenbeck, Hazel (Bouchie) Teets, Tom Bouchie, Helen (Kane) Archer, Edith (Haines) Hart and Marion (Cronin) Crowley, teacher.





High School Students, Class of 1926. Standing, left to right—Katherine (Schreiber) Jacobsen, Marie (Sorenson) McGuire, Dora (Merrill) Archer, Vera (Morris) Clark, Emma (Cass) Chipman, Charlotte Tegland, Edna (Falkenhagen) Smith, Margaret (Christopher) Mundt, Grace (Sutton) Smith; Olaf Clausen, Miss Tishler and Frank Brown, teachers; Gertrude (Cass) White, Helen (Bouchie) Schollian, Genevive (Cass) Brehe, Grace (Brehe) Smith, Dorothy (Currier) Martin, Arlene Christopher, Dorothy (Huse) Miller and May (Hayes) Christopher. Middle row—Kermit Doerr, Orville Fairbank, Coleman Smith, Floyd Christopher, Wilbur Lehmkuhl, Maxwell Robbennolt, Rudolph Mundt, Maurice Sorenson, Isaac Smith and John Smith. Front row—Orin Schollian, Robert Blaine, Dick Bramblette, Raymond Gere, Earl Bever, Leonard Bever Meade Barber and Joe Mundt.

Helen Mishler and Frank Brown, of Huron, who was the first coach.

The grades then occupied three rooms, the fourth room being used for science classes and music room. The grade teachers for the 1926-27 term were Miss Anna Mae Osmanson, Miss Inez Mallory and Miss Mildred Hanson (Mrs. John Sutton, Sr.).

In the fall of 1929, Leonard Luker be-

came the superintendent and remained for two years. Mr. Luker was coach the third year of Superintendent Clausen's administration and was selected to superintend the school after his resignation.

Supt. Charles Rogge stayed from 1931 until the end of the school term in 1933. Later Mr. Rogge became a fieldman for the American Red Cross.

Supt. A. A. Thompson, a former Onida teacher, was hired to administer the Agar schools in the fall of 1933, and stayed for nine years. Under his guidance Agar developed a basketball team which was recognized state-wide for its ability and which went to the State "B" Basketball Tournament in 1941. Several of the players received state recognition and Agar became known nationally for its amazing athletic record attained by such a small school. Besides the excellent showing in the athletic department, Superintendent Thompson maintained a high scholastic standard. Mr. Thompson is presently in charge of the South Dakota State School at Redfield.

Supt. Louis Shetnan came to Agar in 1942 and remained until the spring of 1945, and during that time the Agar basketball team again went to the State "B" Tournament. Andrew Sorenson, an Agar graduate of the early 1930's, came to ad-

First Grade Class, 1931-32. Sitting, left to right—Dorothy Smith and Yvonne McGriff. Middle row—Lillian Neuhauser, Dora Jane Jones, Luella White, Gwendolyn Severson, Florence Westphal, Lorraine White and Margaret Hogan. Back row—Nada Schultz, Raymond Flaad, Fred McGriff (hidden), Terrance Hogan, Ralph Palmer, Charles Merrick and Harold Mundt.





Agar High School Band, 1941. Directed by C. E. Garrett. Front row, left to right—Norma Jean Bandy, Fern Todd, Warren Lytle, Lawrence Venner, Wallace Hoisington, Kenneth Bandy, James Wagner, D. Drew, Mrs. Asher (teacher), James Seward, Richard Martin, James Carr and Morris Bandy. Back row—Ronald Evans, Pauline Hanson, Theola Marsh, Melvin Currier, Robert Mikkelsen, Kenneth Marsh, Ralph Hanson, Kenneth Smith, Kenneth Westphal and Helen Becker. Standing—C. E. Garrett, director.

minister his home school from 1945 to 1947. Robert Putnam then became superintendent in the fall of 1947 and remained until the spring of the following year, when he accepted the position of coach at Southern State Teachers College, Springfield, South Dakota.

In 1948, Wilfred Pape was hired as superintendent and up to the present time has served the longest term, continuing for ten years. He resigned in 1958, and is presently teaching in Alaska. Under Mr. Pape, Agar continued to hold the spotlight in basketball history, both state and national. Each and every boy in the school was trained to be a top athlete and as a result, Agar High School had one of the highest scoring teams in the state. Superintendent Pape also developed a strong track program and Agar won the Little Central Conference in 1954.

Melvin Fedderson developed a fine band in the early 1930's, followed by William Moyer in 1937, who continued the musical program. C. E. Garrett, a trained musician and resident of Agar, took over the band during the war years, as it was impossible to replace teachers during that time.

Mrs. Leonard Venner (Evelyn Kirkham) was hired as music director and has done an outstanding job in developing

and directing glee clubs, chorus groups and also training soloists. She is the first grade teacher at the present time, as well as music director. Mrs. Venner also directs the County Chorus and assists in choosing the music selections for the rural schools.

Home Economics was added to the curriculum in 1954, with Mrs. Anna Smith as the first instructor. Mrs. Jeanette Parker is presently teaching this class. The Home Ec girls sponsor a Mother's Day Tea each spring which is a very special social event of the year.

Another yearly event, which creates a great deal of local interest, is the High School Carnival, at which time there is the crowning of the King and Queen. These two students are chosen by their classmates.

The largest graduating class thus far was in 1937, when 17 boys and girls were graduated.

The records show that 37 Agar High School graduates have chosen teaching as their profession; six chose the nursing profession and one graduate is an army nurse.

The eleven children of Mr. and Mrs. James Cavanaugh graduated from Agar High School; four of which were valedictorians, two were salutatorians, and five

have graduated from college. Mr. Cavanaugh taught school in Sully County during the early pioneer days.

Another outstanding graduate of Agar is David Vetter, who received his diploma in 1937, and who never entered a classroom nor took part in a class discussion. In 1927, David was stricken with polio which left him physically handicapped, but with a courageous spirit and a brilliant and active mind. He knew an education was essential, so he enrolled in the Agar High School in 1934, for the high school

course and graduated four years later with an "A" average.

In the early 1950's, members of the American Legion, citizens and friends throughout Sully County contributed to a fund raising drive which resulted in building a Legion Hall and school gymnasium. This building has been administered by the school and is used for its gymnasium and other school activities, as well as serving for Legion and town events.

The first school annual was published in 1936, and it is interesting to note that Mr. and Mrs. Coleman Smith have a complete set of the Hi-Pointer.—M. S.

Edwin Schreiber, who has been school custodian for the past 22 years, lived with the Carl Falkenhagens after his mother and grandmother passed away, and is now making his home with Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Venner, who now own the Falkenhagen family home.

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Mrs. Wilhelmina Schreiber is Agar's oldest citizen, being 88 years old on March 1, 1959. She lives with her son, John, and daughter, Alma.

☆ ☆ ☆

Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Seward built a new home in Agar when they retired from farming operations in Milford Township. Harvey passed away in 1957, and Mrs. Seward continues to live in Agar.

☆ ☆ ☆

The Andrew Sorenson Family

In 1911, the Andrew Sorenson family came to Agar to assist the Lars Sorensons run the general store, but because of the bad crops, Andrew took his family back to Sauk Center, Minnesota. Then in 1916, he moved his family back to Agar where they lived in the rear of the store until their house was built in 1917.

They had four children; Amelia (Mrs. George Kunkle, of Yankton, South Dakota), Maurice, of Agar, Marie (Mrs. Larry McGuire, of Helena, Montana) and Andrew, of Mitchell, South Dakota.

Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Sorenson have retired and their son, Maurice, and his wife, Alberta, have taken over the operations of the store which has been in the family for three generations.

Mr. and Mrs. John Sunne, who were early pioneers, moved to Agar from Potter County and built a new home there in 1926. They have since passed away. Their daughter, Kate (Mrs. Mike Smith) and her husband reside in Agar and are engaged in the turkey business. Margaret Sunne, another daughter, resides in Aberdeen.

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Hidden "Still"

While moving a straw stack in the winter of 1922, John Blaine and Howard Hulshizer discovered a "still" hidden in one of the stacks near the stockyards.

☆ ☆ ☆

From Field to Table In Twenty Minutes

To eat bread, made in 20 minutes, from wheat grown on a Sully County farm, was the unique record made the first part of August, 1927, by Carl L. Falkenhagen, who was the J. I. Case dealer in Agar at that time.

Mr. Falkenhagen took the grain from the hopper of a Case combine operating on the farm of County Commissioner M. S. Rivenes, in Richvalley Township, drove three miles to the Chris Huse home where, assisted by Mrs. Falkenhagen, Mrs. Huse, Mrs. Rivenes and J. B. Staufer, the wheat was ground twice, sifted, quickly made into graham gems baked in the waiting oven and served ready to eat—all in twenty minutes. The gems were pronounced excellent in spite of the speed in which they were made.



Interior Methodist Church, built 1956.

The Agar Churches

The Methodist Church

Student pastors started church services in the Milford schoolhouse in 1885. Following 1910, worship services were held every Sunday afternoon at three o'clock in the Clouse Hotel and later in the Ryan Cafe. The Rev. A. M. Lott was the first pastor.

Articles of Incorporation for a Methodist Church were filed on February 8, 1911, with the following people signing the papers: Charles R. Sutton, Anna C. Anderson, L. P. Anderson, A. V. Goodrich, J. B. Bessire and John Schreiber, all of Agar.

A building was moved in from Gettysburg about 1916, and it was used continuously until it was replaced by a new brick structure which was consecrated on November 11, 1956. The Rev. Samuel Marble was the first minister to serve the congregation in the old church building,

and the Rev. Clinton Arms, who succeeded him, was the first resident pastor.

The old frame building became inadequate by present day standards and so a new building was erected during the pastorate of Rev. Robert Frescoln. Interesting is the fact that the old white, frame building which originally came from Gettysburg, was moved back to Gettysburg when the new place of worship was completed.

Sylvia Wittler and Manford Lomheim were the first ones to be married in the new church.

The men of the church helped finance the building by promoting a farm project and the cash proceeds, along with many other gifts, are expected to complete payments on the loan by 1960.

The church is fully organized and the young peoples' groups have been very



Agar Methodist Church

active through the years. Mrs. Leonard Venner has given much service to the choir. A spirit of family fellowship is very characteristic of the Agar congregation as evidenced by its helping to build the Methodist parsonage in Gettysburg following World War II, and the one in Onida in the fall of 1958.

Old Methodist Church, moved in from Gettysburg about 1916.



Holy Rosary Catholic Church

The first Catholic church services in Agar were held in the Agar Hall and at the W. F. Naughton residence.

In the fall of 1920, the Holy Rosary Church was built under the supervision of Father Brian O'Malley, of Gettysburg. And the first marriage in the new church was in December, of that year, when Irene Venner and Edward White exchanged vows.

Father O'Malley went back to Ireland after he had been in this country for a while and returned with his niece, Molly, who kept house for him. He served the people of Agar for eight years and was followed by Father Edward O'Connor in 1928. Father Patrick Ryan replaced Father O'Connor, but because of poor health, was relieved by Father M. J. Enright. Father Enright was killed in an automobile accident and was followed by Father Peter P. Meyers, who came in 1931, and served the Agar and Gettysburg parishes for 14 years. He was succeeded by Father E. Kusters and he, in turn, was followed by Father Francis Dillon, the present pastor of Gettysburg.

In 1952, Father Dillon enlarged the



Holy Rosary Catholic Church

Holy Rosary Church, doubling its capacity as a temporary means of accommodating both the Agar and Onida congregation.

In June, of 1957, Father Lawrence Marbach came to Onida to begin the huge task of building a church and establishing a parish there, as well as administering the churches in Agar and Blunt, as Agar no longer belongs to the Gettysburg Mission.

Mass is said in Agar every Sunday by Father Lawrence Marbach.



St. John's Lutheran Church

The first pastor to serve what is now known as St. John's Congregation of Agar was the Rev. Ottomar Kloester, of Wolsey. It was back in the year 1885, that he started such services and all of his traveling was done on foot. After finishing his services at Agar (at that time known as Waterford), he would walk to Blunt to deliver services at that place. When the pastor was unable to be present, Christian Gaebel was elected Reader.

In 1890, Pastor Justus Naumann, then in charge of the congregation north of Har-

rold, started serving the Lutherans here. His work also included Gettysburg, as well as some of the other congregations in the vicinity.

Following Pastor Naumann, a candidate of the St. Louis Seminary, in the person of H. Ohldag, was called as the first resident pastor of the St. John's Congregation. Under Pastor Ohldag's leadership the congregation was formally organized. During a meeting in January, of 1894, a constitution was accepted and signed by 11 members, including the pastor: Wilhelm Schriever, Carl Wilken, Fritz Weidemann, Carl Mullendorf, Christian Gaebel, John Garbe, John Pflégmacher, Fred Brandt, Karl Brandt, Joachim Mundt and the Rev. Ohldag. The first officers were Mr. Gaebel, chairman; Mr. Wilken, secretary; Fred Brandt, treasurer; Mr. Schriever and Mr. Weidemann, elders, and Mr. Garbe, trustee. In March of that year, the voters also resolved to have school on Sunday afternoons beginning at two o'clock with Mr. Schriever as superintendent. The first Sunday School teachers were Mrs. Weidemann and Mrs. Fred Brandt.

During that time services were gen-

St. John's Lutheran Church, built 1909, east of Agar.



erally conducted in a home—quite frequently in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Brandt. However, during Pastor Ohldag's time and even later, the congregation oftentimes worshiped in a building which served as a church—a "barracks-like affair," that stood a few miles south of the present site of Agar.

Pastor Ohldag accepted a call elsewhere in the latter nineties, and the congregation was then served by Pastor F. W. Leyhe, of Wolsey. In the spring of 1900, the Rev. Werdermann became pastor for a few years and then accepted a call to Wheaton, Minnesota. Again, Pastor Leyhe served the congregation, coming out every six weeks, and whenever he came the little "church" or home where services were held, was always filled.

Church records were rather incomplete in those days in comparison to present day records, but during that period the following pastors were either resident, or at least served the congregation in the capacity of pastor: Rev. Kellerman, Rev. Schultz, Rev. Lossner and Rev. M. G. Polack. August Sauer, who lived in Lebanon, South Dakota, was pastor at the time the church was built which was erected on a location one-half mile east of Agar. It was during those years that the various congregations in the vicinity decided to form a parish and all be served by one pastor.

It was in May, 1909, that the voting members of St. John's Congregation passed a resolution to build a church. Fred Weidemann, Fred Brandt and Peter Maas were elected at that meeting to start soliciting money for the project. Businessmen from Agar, Onida and Gettysburg donated towards the building. On July 20, 1909, the property one-half mile east of Agar, which had been donated by Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Rogers of Washington County, Iowa, was officially deeded to the congregation as the site for the new church. The building itself was completed either in the latter part of 1909, or during the first months of 1910. At that time the congregation also joined the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Missouri, Ohio.

An interesting sidelight of the build-



St. John's Lutheran Church

ing project was bringing the bell from Gettysburg. The bell weighed 1,800 pounds and was brought to Agar with a single team over roads that we today label "cow trails." It is the same bell which is still used by the congregation to call the "weary and heavy laden" to devine worship.

Through the years the following pastors served the St. John's Congregation: Rev. A. Sauer, 1910; Rev. W. F. Dommer, 1913-1918; Rev. F. A. Hinnners, 1919-1927, when services were changed from German to English; Rev. H. M. Bauer, 1928-1930, when the constitution of the congregation was translated into English and officially accepted on May 23, 1928; Rev. E. C. Beyer, 1930-36, who had to leave because of the depression.

St. John's Congregation was without a pastor for nine years with Rev. Hugo Larson serving as vacancy pastor for one year. He was followed by Rev. Paul F. Siegel, of Harrold, who served for almost seven years as vacancy pastor—January, 1938, to November, 1944. Then from December, of 1944, to June, of 1945, Rev. C. Rabe, of Pierre, concluded the vacancy period. It was, however, during the vacancy in the time of Rev. Siegel that the congregation decided to definitely move the church into the town of Agar. In the



Confirmation Class, 1940.

Back row, left to right — Royal Olson, Donald Brandt, Nada Schultz, Avis Brandt, Ella Hines, Harold Mundt, Raymond Schlenker and the Rev. Seigel, pastor. Front row — Anna Mae Olson, Erma Schreiber and Ellen Hines.

minutes of a special voters' meeting of June 25, 1944, "A motion was made and seconded: To give the Ladies Aid the right to have the church moved into town, whose funds were used to help with the project."

On January 22, 1947, the church was actually moved and placed on the present location. The new foundation of the building also included a basement which was sorely needed by the congregation for social and recreational activities. In the process of moving, some renovations were also made on the building. On the outside, the old steeple was lowered and some of it discarded; and on the inside, a number of features were added to beautify the House of God, thus making it more conducive to worship. While the moving project was in progress, the congregation decided to sell its parsonage, which had been purchased from Joe Naughton, as the pastor was living in Gettysburg, and additional funds were required to pay for the moving and renovating of the church.

The new minister, Rev. A. G. Palechek, served from June, 1945, to July, 1947. During the vacancy, Rev. C. F. Paul served the congregation and also Rev. K. Lassanske.

Rev. O. D. Brack was installed on Palm Sunday, March 21, 1948, and served until March, 1955. Rev. Paul Sohn served as vacancy pastor until August, 1956, when Rev. Frederick Skov was installed

and served until January, 1958. Rev. Glen Reichwald served as vacancy pastor during 1958, with Victor Lloyd Gauglin as assistant, from June until August. Vicar Gauglin conducted Vacation Bible School at both Agar and Onida in June. On August 17, 1958, Rev. T. C. Klees, St. John's present pastor, was installed and also served the Onida Holy Cross Lutheran Church.

Of special interest is the fact that the Ladies Aid bought a good second hand organ for fifty dollars from a Mrs. Doktor, of Lebanon, which was used for services for many years until the new electric organ was purchased. The old organ was then given to the Lutheran Church, of Cresbard.—L. J.



Mrs. M. A. Lyons is one of the early settlers and has operated a hardware and ready-to-wear store in Agar for many years. Her son, Alvin, lives on a farm southwest of Agar in Milford Township and her daughter, Fern (Mrs. Donald Martin) lives near Onida.



Lloyd Archer operates a garage in the former hardware and machine shop owned by his father, J. B. Archer, and his mother, Maude Archer, lives near the building.

Organizations

The earliest organization was the Literary Society which met in the Town Hall. Those meetings were well attended with many people sharing their talents of speaking, debating or singing.

Not long after the Literary Society was established, a group of men organized a Checker Club in February of 1912. Some of the early members of that social men's club were Carl Falkenhagen, Ed Ryan, A. V. Goodrich, Pat Kane, C. C. Lyons, George Fairbank, F. D. Mitchell and W. S. Leeper.

A Commercial Club was organized with one of its main projects being the revamping of the newspaper from the Agar Argus into the Agar Enterprise. The club kept the newspaper active with a number of editors, but finally sold the plant to Carmon L. Bates in 1920.



Agar Fire Department

The Agar Community Fire Department was organized on October 13, 1953. Agar and the surrounding community were very much in favor of establishing a fire department and donated generously towards the purchase of a fire truck and necessary equipment.

On December 18, 1953, a two-ton Ford truck was purchased from Don Burns, of Philip, South Dakota, and the equipment was bought from the Luverne Equipment Company. In February of the following year, the truck and equipment arrived in Agar. In April, of that year, the fire hall was built and the siren was installed in May. In September, of 1955, a radio was purchased and installed in the truck.

The firemen practiced often in order to learn to operate all of the equipment efficiently. They meet regularly once a month and sponsor an annual Firemen's Ball.

Besides fighting fires in and around Agar and responding nobly to calls in the surrounding area, the firemen have helped build a playground, sponsor a Santa Claus for the children at Christmas time and many other worthwhile projects.

The first officers and members of the department were as follows: Jess Woodard, chief; Merle VonWald, first as-

sistant; Orville Zuber, second assistant; Roy Hawes, secretary and treasurer, and W. J. Asmussen, Ray Vader and Art Witter, trustees; Bernell Kuhrt, Lloyd Archer, Dick Carr, Leonard Venner, Manford Lomheim, Robert Jaragoske, M. P. Sorenson, Sherman Seward, Royal Olson, Paul Witter, Virgil Weidemann, C. F. Long, Floyd Falkenhagen, Kenneth Marsh, Oliver Evans, Coleman Smith, Ed Schreiber, Leo Weischedel, George Gerlach, Clarence Wagner, Ruben Joachim, Richard Martin, Francis Kane, William Wagner, George Cass, Keith Stoll, Eugene Venner, Norman Schultz, Marcel Lomheim, Bill Robbennolt, Wayne Carr, Jr., John Evans, Ernest Vierling, Albert Schreiber and Maynard Wagner.

The new officers elected in 1955 were Merle VonWald, chief; Manford Lomheim, first assistant; Richard Martin, second assistant, and Roy Hawes, secretary and treasurer. Then in 1957, Bill Robbennolt was elected secretary, and Sherman Seward, treasurer.

The present officers and members are as follows: Bob Kenworthy, chief; Richard Martin, first assistant; M. P. Sorenson, second assistant; Coleman Smith, secretary, and Verne Pearson, treasurer; Merle VonWald, George Gerlach, Fred Long, Orville Zuber, George Cass, Bill Robbennolt, Ed Schreiber, Sherman Seward, Floyd Falkenhagen, Keith Stoll, Jesse Venner, William Wagner, Robert Jaragoske, Leonard Venner, Oliver Evans, Clarence Wagner, H. R. Eliason, Leo Weischedel, Albert Schreiber, Francis Kane, Ruben Joachim, Gene Bigelow, Harold Mundt, Leon Beyer and Melvin Merrill.

The Agar Community Fire Department is proud to serve Agar and surrounding community and would like to thank everyone for their wonderful support.—B. K.



American Legion Post No. 271, Agar, S. D.

Agar American Legion Post, No. 271, was organized at the close of World War II by the veterans of both wars, and received its charter on April 1, 1946.

The 21 charter members were Walter Venner, George Gerlach, John Schaffer, Richard Ernst, Howard R. Weischedel,



Pride and Joy of the Agar Community Fire Department is the new truck and fire fighting equipment pictured above which was purchased through contributions from residents of the area and help from the Town of Agar and Sully County. A few of the firemen are pictured (left to right) Donald Naughton, Dick Carr, Royal Olson, Oliver Evans, Bernell Kuhrt, Paul Wittler, Chief Jesse Woodward and George Gerlack.

Earl W. Reiger, Elmer Lehmkuhl, Jon Reiger, Jesse Venner, Robert Smith, Leonard Venner, John Silbaugh, Ronald Evans, Albin Johnson, Wilfred Robbennolt, Kenneth Marsh, Irving Asmussen, Stanley Asmussen, Alvin Olson, Paul Brandt and Peter Asmussen.

The first post commander was Walter Venner, a veteran of World War I.

Following its organization, the Post began making plans for building a Legion home and raising funds. These plans were finally expanded to include a community hall and the money for this project was raised in various ways, including donations by the citizens of the community, community sales and a farming project by the Legion Post.

One of the first money raising projects was sponsoring bowery dances. The Post purchased a bowery dance floor and a large tent from Bert Clouse for \$600.00. This project was only a mild success and the floor was later sold at one of the community sales.

Work was finally started on the new hall in the spring of 1948, with about \$19,000.00 in the fund. This amount was sufficient to complete the project, but with the drive and enthusiasm which was characteristic of the youthful citizens, the infant organization realized its initial ambition and the new community hall was first used in the fall of 1948, for the military funeral of Merle Lehmkuhl. Later an opening dance was held in the new hall and since has been used continuously for Legion, community and school activities. Agar Post, No. 271, is responsible for maintaining this hall.

The Post has been active in Legion affairs on the District and Department levels, makes donations to the Vets Organizations and worthy institutions and sponsors a young man to Boys State each year. On March 28, 1951, Agar Post, No. 271, was host to the District Convention.

The Post also sponsors the Legion basketball teams and junior baseball teams and at present is sponsoring a junior-jun-

ior baseball team under the management of Patrick Kane, who is also the present post commander.

The present membership now stands at thirty-seven.

Agar Post, No. 271, has always had the welfare of the veterans and their families close to its heart, the needs of the community, the American Legion organization and its country uppermost in its mind, and always stands ready to render its services in time of peace and war.—L. V.

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Boy Staters

Francis Kane, 1947; Walter Schreiber, 1948; Bobby Taylor, 1949; Gene Cavanaugh, 1950; Marion Schreiber, 1951; Darrell Smith, 1952; Lester Smith, 1953; Maynard Wagner, 1954; Marlin Wagner, 1955; Oren Smith, 1956; Wade Pexa, 1957, and Kent Joachim, 1958.

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American Legion Auxiliary, Agar, S. Dak.

On July 26, 1946, a meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Alice Asmussen for the purpose of organizing an auxiliary unit to the Agar American Legion Post, No. 271. Mrs. Delta Fielder, Pierre, district president, presided at the meeting.

The Auxiliary charter was applied for on October 9, 1946, and the 13 charter members were: Helene Lyons, Alice Asmussen, Evelyn Venner, Marie Schultz, Bessie Venner, Frances Hughes, Phyllis Wagner, Katherine Smith, Alberta Sorenson, Maude Hanson, Lorraine Martin, Irmel Evans and Arilla Lyons. At the present time, eight of those members are still active, two have moved away and one is deceased.

One of the charter members, Marie Schultz, has been Auxiliary treasurer since it was organized. The first two presidents, Helene Lyons and Alice Asmussen, presented an Auxiliary Emblem lamp to the organization.

When the Legion undertook its major project, that of building a community hall and Legion club rooms, the Auxiliary furnished the equipment for the kitchen and gave cash donations to help finish the hall and club room. In 1951, the Auxiliary presented an American Flag to the Legion.

It has necessitated many fund raising projects to carry on the Auxiliary program each year. Some of these have been

serving dance suppers, sponsoring dances, sponsoring public whist parties, publishing and selling a cook book, bake sales, bazaars and quilting bees.

The Auxiliary has faithfully met the requirements of the Department program, monthly donations and shower gifts and every Christmas remembrances have been sent to the Veterans Hospital at Hot Springs. Each year rags are sewed and sent to be made into rugs by disabled veterans and finished rugs and other occupational therapy articles are purchased from the Hobby Shop at the hospital. The Poppy Poster contest is sponsored alternately with the Onida Unit and an Essay contest is sponsored each year by the Agar Unit. The Unit also sponsors a girl from the junior class to attend Girls State at Mitchell.

The Unit provides a portion of the program each year for the county Memorial Day program. It has promoted the sale of veteran made poppies on Poppy Day, increasing the sales by making wreaths and poppy corsages. Another worthwhile project of the Unit is presenting an American Flag to every first grade student for memorizing the Flag Salute. Each year the Auxiliary helps the Legion celebrate its birthday with a community party.

In 1951, the local Unit entertained the District Ten meeting and the president, at that time Evelyn Venner, was also alternate district president. Mrs. Venner has also served as page at a Department convention and was Department music chairman one year.

Membership in the organization has grown from the original 13 to 47 members at the present time. The present officers are: Jean McLean, president; Dorothy Seward, first vice president; Dorothy Rausch, second vice president; Mellitta Schultz, secretary; Marie Schultz, treasurer; Alberta Sorenson, historian; Bessie Venner, chaplain, and Lillian Ketchum, sergeant-at-arms.

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Girl Staters

Minnie Mae Flood, 1947; Dorothy Otto, 1948; Marjorie Venner, 1949; Betty Venner, 1950; Maxine Venner, 1951; Mary Jean Thompson, 1952; Iris Olson, 1953; Edna Schreiber, 1954; Louise Doerr, 1955; Virginia Brandt, 1956; JoAnn Wittler, 1957, and Deanna Smith, 1958.

Sports Highlights

April 19, 1913, was the date on which the first baseball team was organized with Hans Christianson as manager; Cy Lyons, captain; J. B. Bessire, treasurer, and E. J. Branch, secretary. Those officers also acted as the finance committee for the organization.

There were many enthusiastic baseball players and also spectators during the World War I years, and the team, at that time which included Charles Garrett (pitcher), A. S. Clouse (catcher), John and Leonard Nystrom, Verne Deyo, Hans Christianson, Jacob Wagner, Les Merrick, Cy Lyons, Claude Jones, "Bud" Eddy and Art Ransom, had a great deal of talent and played fine baseball.

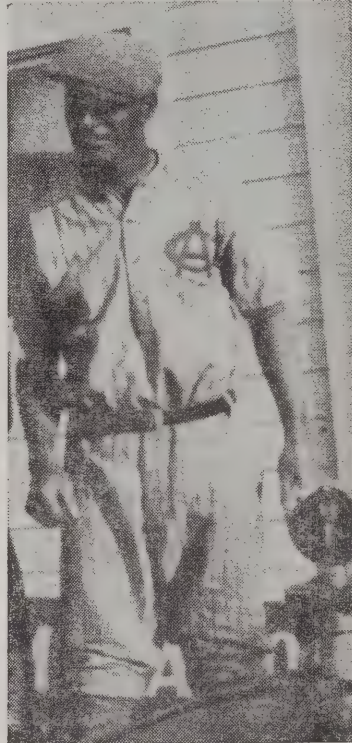
During the twenties, the five Venners (Walter, Arthur, Harry, Jesse and Lawrence), Floyd Falkenhagen (pitcher), Alvin Lyons (catcher), Charles Fairbank, Leonard Nystrom and "Cub" Yackley formed the outstanding team which won the new baseball suits.



Basketball

Agar's brilliant basketball teams began back in 1926, when the first team was organized and coached by Ernest Schoof, who was the banker there at that time and donated his time and services to the players. The boys used the old school-

house in Onida for practice and also for games. Included in that first basketball team were Elmer Lehmkuhl, "Red" King, Floyd Christopher, Orville Fairbank, Ker-



Walter Venner, one of the five Venner Baseball players.

First Basketball Team, 1926. Back Row, left to right — Ernest Schoof (Coach), Elmer Lehmkuhl, Len "Red" King and Floyd Christopher. Front row—Orville Fairbank, Kermit Doerr, Charlie Fairbank, and Maurice Sorenson.



Basketball Team, 1927.

Back row, left to right—Robert Blaine, John Smith Leonard Bever, Elmer Weideman, Raymond Gere, Oren Schollian and Dick Bramblette. Front row—Joe Mundt, Coleman Smith Kermit Doerr, Orville Fairbank and Maurice Sorenson.



mit Doerr, Charlie Fairbank and Maurice Sorenson.

The 1928 team, coached by Leonard Luker, was awarded the Sportsmanship Cup at the district tournament held in Pierre. That team included Leonard Bever, Isaac Smith, Orville Fairbank, Elmer Weideman, Joe Mundt, John Smith, Coleman Smith and Andrew Sorenson.

The Agar Hi-Pointers received a gold trophy at the end of the 1938 basketball season as their reward for an undefeated season. Coach Dalke was head basketball coach, with Ruben Joachim as captain of the team. Herman Joachim and Warren Miller were picked for the "All Tournament" team by the coaches in the Conference Tournament that year.

The 1940-41 basketball season was an important one, as the team won the District XVI Tournament held in Onida, and also the Region IV Tournament held in Redfield that year, which entitled them to participate in the State Tournament with the best record of any team entering that tournament—29 victories and no defeats. Coach Thompson's traveling team was composed of Captain Bob Smith, Jesse Rausch, Richard Martin, Morris Bandy, Ralph Palmer, Kenneth Smith, Melvin Currier, Herbert Vetter, Kenneth Bandy and Sherman Rausch.

Again in 1944, the Hi-Pointers journeyed to the State "B" Tournament held in Aberdeen, but were unfortunate in drawing Mobridge as their opponent in



Sportsmanship Team, 1928.

Back row, left to right—Coach Leonard Luker, Leonard Bever, Isaac Smith, Orville Fairbank, Elmer Weideman and Joe Mundt. Front row—John Smith, Coleman Smith and Andrew Sorenson.

1941 Staters. Back row, left to right—Kenneth Smith, Melvin Currier, Herbert Vetter, Morris Bandy, Bob Smith and Coach A. A. Thompson. Front row — Kenneth Bandy, Ralph Palmer, Jessie Rausch, Sherman Rausch and Richard Martin.



the first game and were defeated 22 to 25 by the powerful Mobridge team which won the state tournament that year. The ten lettermen coached by Supt. Lewis Schetan that year were Co-captains Donald Brandt and Ronald Evans, James Carr, Kenneth Smith, Maurice Merritt, Pat Kane, Carlos Sunne, Marvin Schaeffer, Clarence Wagner and James Seward.

The Hi-Pointers were picked by sports editors of South Dakota Associated Press newspapers as the number one team during the 1950-51 season class "B" high school basketball poll and held that place again for most of the 1951-52 season. Coach Bill Pape's boys captured the District Seven championship in 1955 and again in 1956.

1957-58 Hi-Pointer Squad. Back row—Kent Joachim, Lyle Wagner, Wade Pexa, Joe Schultz, Arlo Wagner, Jim Beyer, Jerry Norman and Coach Bill Pape. Front row — Arlo Todd, Jack Smith, Dennis Pexa, Mervin Bouchie, and Revi Pexa. The Hi-Pointers won the Little Central Conference championship and also were tourney champions.



Horse Racing

Keith Asmussen, 18-year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Irving Asmussen, of Agar, has made a name for himself as a jockey. He raced throughout the New England states during the summer of 1957, and in 1958, was one of the leading riders at Jefferson Park, South Dakota, and booted two mounts into the top money at the North Montana State Fair race track the week of August 15.

During the time Keith was still an apprentice jockey—he became a full-fledged jockey on November 19, 1958,—he was in action at Scarborough Downs, Portland Me.; Waymouth, Mass.; Marshfield, Mass.; North Hampton, Mass.; Great Falls, Mont.; Atokad Park, Neb., and Caliente in Tijuans, Mexico, besides the Park Jefferson race track.

Keith loves horses and likes to ride. He comes by this naturally, as his father

owns two horses which have run at Park Jefferson—"Salt Seller" and "Zoom Way."

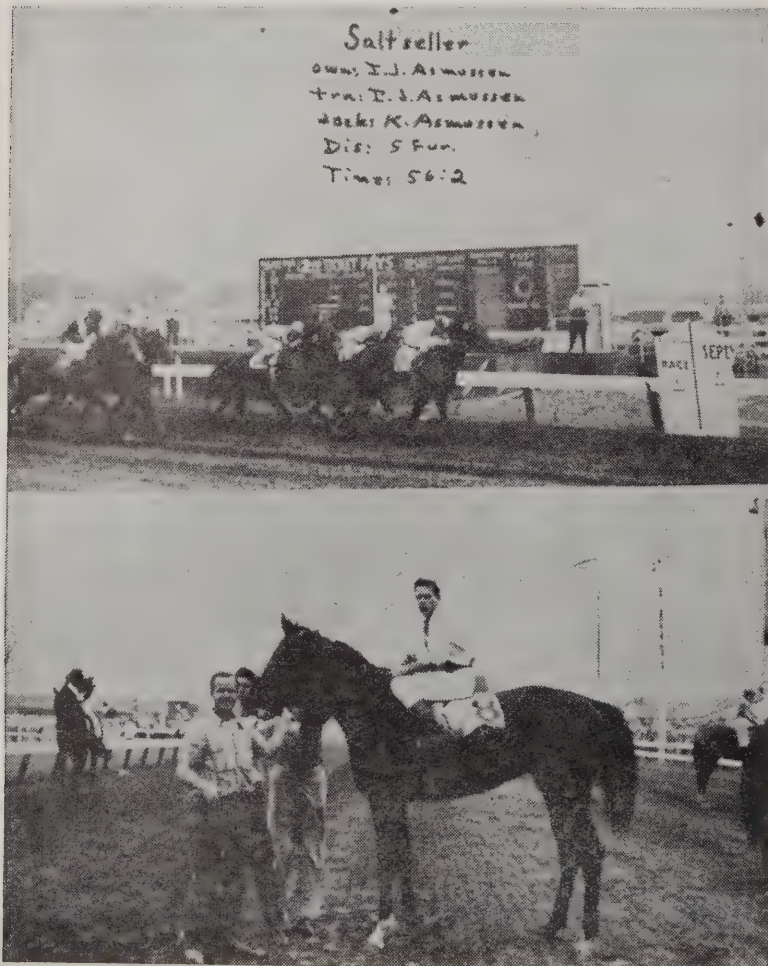
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Track

Agar's track men have won honors for their school on the cinders and on the field all through the years, and as far back as the middle twenties, when they participated in the Legion Relays, they have broken many records.

The Agar school acted as hosts to pupils and teacher of the north side school, in May, 1924, in its first public school field and track meet.

During the spring of 1953, the Hi-Pointers piled up 50 points at the Little Central Conference Meet held in Pierre to take the Meet. Don Naughton broke his own record of :55.6 when he ran the 440 in :55.2. Darrell Smith fired the discus a distance of 126 feet to break his



Keith Asmussen riding "Salt Seller", winner at North Hampton (Mass.) Fair, and his father, Irving J. Asmussen, owner, standing at left.

own mark of 123 feet. Naughton turned in a broad jump that day of 19 feet 10 inches. He was the Meet's top performer, as he personally accounted for 18 points.

Then again that spring the Pointers scored 38 points to take the Class "B" Division at the Region IV Track Meet, setting three new records. Darrell Smith was the outstanding performer at that Meet.



AGAR'S FIRSTS

Birth—Francis Ryan, born to Mr. and Mrs. Ed Ryan, on September 5, 1910.

Marriage—Josephine Ryan and Richard Naughton.

Marriage in Catholic Church—Irene Venner and Ed White, in 1920.

Death—Otto Peterson, May 31, 1913. He was struck by lightning on the street in Agar at the age of 20.

Birthday—July, 1911.

Train—Went through Agar on August, 1910.

Car—L. P. Christianson purchased a White Steamer in 1911. It was a self-propelled car, which chugged and groaned over the rough roads.

Ladies Aid President—Mrs. A. V. Goodrich.

Fire Alarm—Sounded on May 16, 1914, when the Bever residence was discovered to be on fire. The bucket brigade was soon on deck and the flames were

quickly extinguished with very little damage done.

Sidewalks—1918. Each real estate owner paid for the laying of sidewalks on his lots in the business and residential areas.

Lights—1920. The light plant was operated by J. B. Archer.

R.E.A.—Turned on July 5, 1950, at the home of Mrs. Addie Mundt just east of Agar.



FEATURES AND FEATURETTES

The Asmussen Family

Mr. and Mrs. William J. Asmussen live in the home, in town, that was built in 1911, by his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Pete Anderson. Mrs. Asmussen is the former Alice McGuire Marsh.

The Asmussens have five sons and two daughters; namely, Stanley, Irving, Pete, Elaine, Kenneth, Theola and Billy.

Stanley and his wife, Mary, purchased the Lutheran parsonage in 1945, where they now live. They have three children, Johannas Mary (Mary Jo), Tommy and Ted. Stanley and his father have a feed yard adjoining Agar west of the railroad and farm extensively from Agar headquarters.

Irving, who married Helen Lyons, lives on the home farm three miles east

Home of Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Asmussen



of Agar where he also carries on an extensive farm and ranch program. They have two children, Keith and Stana. Training and racing horses is the hobby of the Irving Asmussen family and they own a number of outstanding race horses. Keith, who is just 18 years old, is rated as a top winning jockey and is a favorite of South Dakota racing fans.

Pete, who is single, divides his time between his home in Agar and Sioux Falls.

Elaine is married to John Richards and they have two sons, Barry and Jerry. She owns and operates a beauty parlor in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Kenneth Marsh married Eileen Merritt and they live on the farm southwest of Agar. They have two children, Douglas and Carol.

Theola married Robert Smith and lives in Spearfish, South Dakota. They have one daughter, Bobee Cheri. Theola is taking training preparatory to teaching in a retarded children's school, which she

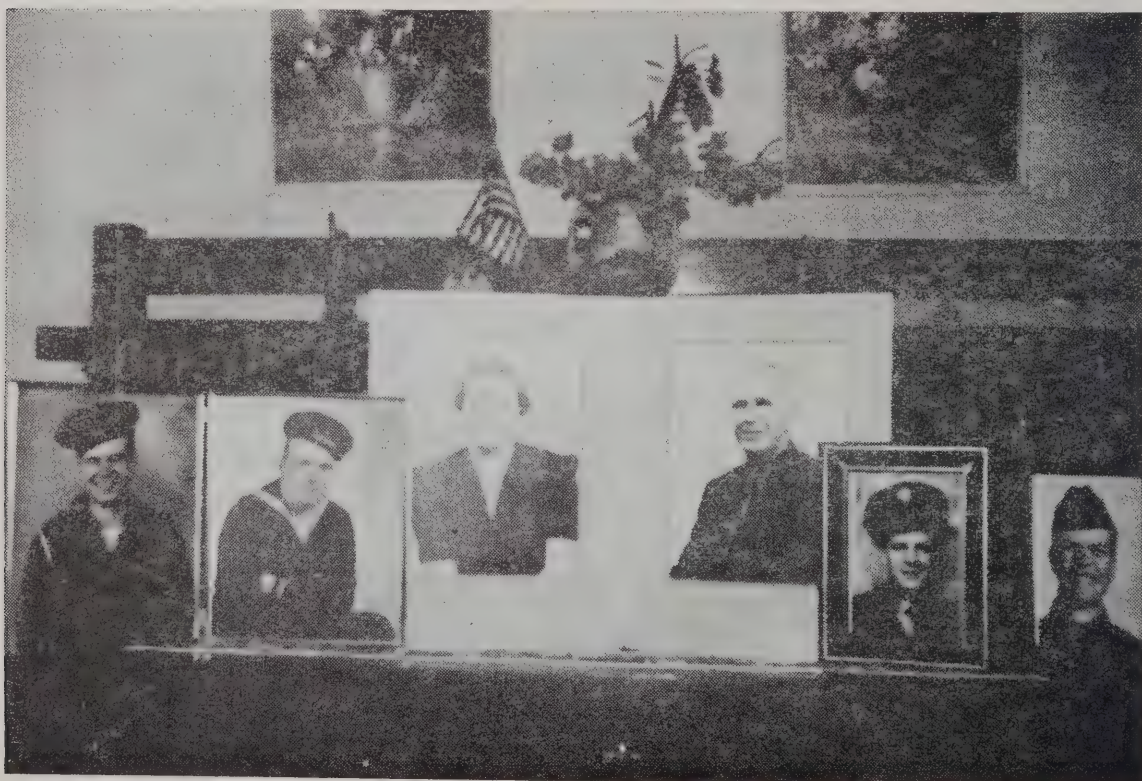
finds is a very interesting and worthwhile vocation.

Billy Dan, the youngest, is married



Elaine (Asmussen) Richards

Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Asmussen and four of their sons in the Service at the same time. Left to right—Irving, Kenneth, Mrs. Asmussen (Alice), Mr. Asmussen (Bill), Stanley, and Pete, along with a daughter, Elaine (Asmussen) Richards, pictured above.





Theola (Marsh) Smith

to Patty Telford and they have one son, Jay. Billy is in the Navy and is stationed at San Diego, California.

Six of the seven children enlisted in the Service, five were serving their country at one time, and Billy at the present time.

Back in 1933, Bill Asmussen, Sr., abandoned the farm he couldn't give away and moved to the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation to struggle through the depression and drouth by feeding sheep on leased grassland. In the spring of 1940, he returned to Agar and started buying up land and, at the present time, owns

William D. (Billy) Asmussen



204 quarters, in partnership with his sons, in Sully, Potter, Hyde and Hand counties.

An oddity exists in the Asmussen family. Hans Asmussen, who lived in Nebraska, also had an only child, a son, named William J. Hans and his brother, Chris, (Bill, Sr.'s father) were unaware of this coincidence until many years later when the two William J.'s happened to hear of each other and got together for a visit. At that time they also found that they each have a daughter named Elaine.



The Glenn Bever Family

Glenn Bever arrived in Agar the first part of March, 1911, and built a small cottage in the southeast part of town (now the John Cavanaugh residence). Mrs. Bever (Maud Todd) and two sons, Neil and Newel, visited at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Todd, while Mr. Bever built the house.

Both Neil and Newel moved to Sioux City, Iowa, where Neil was employed in the postoffice for 31 years.

Leonard and Lucille were born in Agar. Leonard served in the army and upon retiring went into business in Chelsea, Washington. Lucille married Merle VonWald and they made their home in Agar. They have two daughters, Shirley (Mrs. James McClure of Fort Pierre) and Sharon.

Mr. Bever was a carpenter and also a farmer. During the twenties, he operated a cafe and later trucked for many years.



Mr. and Mrs. John Evans took over the duties of postmaster in 1932; he as postmaster and she as his assistant. She continued in this capacity when Sherman Seward took over as postmaster in 1954, relinquishing the job as assistant in 1957, the year Mr. Evans passed away. Mrs. Evans still lives in Agar near her son, Oliver and family.

The Falkenhagen Family

Carl L. Falkenhagen came to this country from Germany in 1883, with his mother, Sophia Maria, and his brother, John, and three sisters, Louise, Marie and Minnie. Carl was about nine years old at that time. His father had come here in 1882, and established a homestead for his family close to the farm now owned by E. L. Doerr.

After his father passed away in the late 80's, Carl went to work for Dave Hall and also freighted from Blunt to Onida.

In the late 1890's, Carl homesteaded the farm now owned by Axel Mikkelsen, and built the farm buildings about 1900.

On February 14, 1900, Carl was married to Laura M. Anderson, daughter of Nels Anderson of Richvalley Township. Carl's mother made her home with them.

Laura, at the age of three years, came to this country with her parents from Denmark. They first settled in Minnesota, and later moved to their homestead which is now the William Vet-



Carl L. Falkenhagen, 1900



Mrs. Carl L. Falkenhagen, 1900

Carl Falkenhagen's threshing rig in the early 1930's.





Carl L. Falkenhagen farm home



Carl Falkenhagen in his cook car, 1900

ter farm. Laura taught school in Sully County for several years prior to her marriage.

During the years 1901 to 1910 the four Falkenhagen children were born; Floyd, Marie, Bessie and Edna.

The family moved to Agar in 1910, and Carl established a mercantile business which he operated for several years and later spent most of his time in land business.

Floyd married Margaret Brandt, and they have one son, Kenneth, a high school student.

Marie is married to Henry Sunne, and they live near Gettysburg. They have one son, Carlos, and two grandchildren.

Bessie is married to Jesse Venner, and they have one daughter, Betty Lou, and one granddaughter. They purchased the Falkenhagen family home in Agar where they now live.

Edna, who married Coleman Smith, also lives in Agar with her family. They



Four generations of Falkenhagens in 1916. Front row, left to right—Maria Falkenhagen (mother), Louise (Falkenhagen), Weideman (daughter). Back row—Mary (Weideman) Schreiber (granddaughter) and Albert Schreiber (great grandson).



Charles Garrett, a versatile gentleman. Store-keeper, bass singer, trumpet player, band director and a baseball player.

have one daughter, Deanna, who is a senior in high school.

Carl and Laura Falkenhagen have both passed away; Carl, in July of 1956, and Laura, in May, 1947.



The Charles Garretts

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Garrett moved from Miller, South Dakota, to Agar in 1916, when they purchased a general merchandise store.

They have two daughters, Vera (Mrs. Lonnie Hall, of Fayetteville, Arkansas) and Genevieve (Mrs. L. A. Pennington, of Salt Lake City, Utah).

Mr. Garrett is a man of many talents and interests. He was an avid baseball player and a top-notch pitcher, as well as an excellent musician. Both he and Mrs. Garrett are outstanding musicians and readily shared their talents. Mr. Garrett directed the community band and the school band for many years.

Mr. and Mrs. Garrett have retired from the mercantile business and still make their home in Agar.

Hunting companions in front of Garrett's Store in the early twenties. Left to right—Dr. B. M. Hart, two Mayo brothers (doctors from the Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota) and Charles Garrett.



Clifton

ON-THE-OKOBOJO

It was in the spring of 1883, that the village of Clifton was founded by a town-site company of Pierre and located on the south bank of the Okobojo—a never failing stream upon a plateau just sloping enough to afford excellent drainage.

The county seat of Sully County was immediately located in the new town and within a few weeks Clifton was the most important place within a radius of fifty miles. Being the county seat and situated so near the geographical center of Sully County, Clifton enjoyed a steady growth from the very start. Government land was easily secured in that vicinity and relinquishments purchased at a low price.

The first business places established were a general store, operated by Henry Potter; a hotel, run by Mr. and Mrs. William Ross; a newspaper, "The Sully County Watchman," published by William Walter and J. H. Gropengieser; a blacksmith shop, owned by Joseph Kokish; a real estate office, owned by S. H. Neal, and an office built by the Frost brothers for the

"Clifton Sun," which they published for a short time and then sold to the proprietors of the "Watchman."

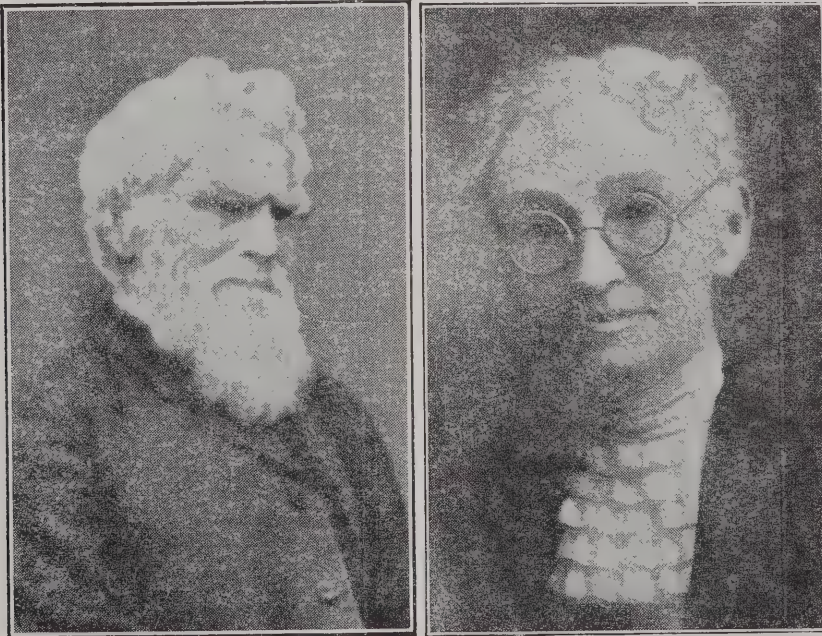
Some of the earliest homes erected were that of the Hiram Butts' family, John Cole, Orr Lee, B. P. Hoover, who built a large home on his farm nearby, and the Andrew McFall family which included Miss Frances Winter, a niece of Mr. McFalls'.

The schoolhouse was located in the building which had housed the "Clifton Sun" and the fall term commenced in October, 1883, with Mrs. V. M. McFall as the teacher. She continued to be the village teacher until the fall of 1888, when she was succeeded by Mrs. Rose Harpold.

The Rev. A. C. Law, a missionary of the Methodist Church, commenced religious services that fall in Neal's Real Estate office and later in the schoolhouse. Rev. Law passed away on September 2, 1884, of typhoid fever.

There was a group of young men

Mr. and Mrs. V. M. McFall





Some of the Bachelor Boys of Clifton. Back row, left to right—Albert Tobias, and J. H. Gropengieser. Front row—Irvin Rickert, Andrew Wasgatt and Willis Rickert.

who lived in the hotel the first year—Henry Edgerton (clerk of courts), Irvin Rickert and his cousin, Willis Rickert, and Albert Tobias. The following spring they were joined by Harry Banker, Albert Wasgatt, Dan Howe, J. A. Meloon, Fred Bonsey and J. H. Gropengieser. Soon this group became known as the “Bachelor Boys.” Later these young men built a small residence and established a home for themselves with Bonsey as cook.

During the fall and winter of 1883, when cattle would stray away, the “Bachelor Boys” would invariably strike out towards the southwest in search of them. A few miles in that direction was a settlement called “Girls Town”—a group of seventeen young ladies owning claims.

Jay Hoover and Willie Ross returned from a hunting trip at the mouth of the Okobojo one cold day in December, 1883, leading a large, live jack-rabbit with a rope.

In April, 1884, Dr. G. E. Vesey located in Clifton as a practising physician and dentist. Later his wife joined him in his new location.

Harry Butts was postmaster in 1884.

The Cole brothers, John and Ira, built a large residence on their claims in

the spring of 1884, and put in over 100 acres of wheat, oats, corn and flax. The brothers also erected a small building in which Ira installed a stock of drugs.

During the summer and fall of 1884, a heated campaign was carried on between candidates from Clifton and Onida for the permanent location of the county seat and it was not until almost a year later that the case was settled and the county records moved to Onida.

A baseball team was organized during the summer of 1884, the first in Sully County, with Willis Rickert as captain and the other “Bachelor Boys” as members of the team. The boys played on their new diamond on August 12, against Onida. The score was Clifton 66, Onida 42. Bert Lilly was the catcher for Onida.

The Christian College of Dakota was established at Clifton in 1884. There were 14 applicants for examination for certificates before County Superintendent Carr at the college on September 1, 1885. Among those included: Miss Vina McGannon, Jay Pierce, Miss Mabel Mills, J. M. Gray, Miss Sarah Seward, Mr. McMahon, Mrs. E. E. Brooking, Mrs. Matie Scrivens, Mrs. H. C. Paull, Mrs. V. M. McFall and



Sully County Old Settlers' Association, taken in 1926 at the Fair Grounds, Onida. Recognized in picture are Mr. and Mrs. David Rilling, Henry Eversmeyer, Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Courtney, Mrs. Thos. Crawford, Wm. Crawford, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Buck, Chas. L. Hyde, speaker; H. A. Brooking, Mr. and Mrs. Todd, Mr. and Mrs. L. Nelson, Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Gleason, Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Garrett, D. W. Hyde, Perry Swenson, J. H. Gropengieser, B. M. Lister, A. J. Bunch, Mrs. Howard, Mrs. Lister, Robt. Porter, Henry Lawrence, Mrs. C. J. Johnson, Jessie Livingstone.

Miss Frankie Winter. In March, of 1886, the college building was torn down and the lumber hauled to Holabird, South Dakota.

On February 11, 1886, an organization, known as "The Clifton Well Association" was formed. Its purpose was to assess the citizens to pay for past and future repairs on the town well. Also, to raise funds and replace the mill. John F. Cole was elected to solicit and collect a small sum monthly from those who benefited from the wind mill and tank.

Members of the Union organization met at the F. Haskin residence on February 28, 1886, and organized a Union Sunday School. The following officers were elected: A. J. Lakin, superintendent; Mrs. V. W. McFall, assistant super-

intendent; Henry Holmes, secretary, and Mrs. A. J. Lakin, treasurer.

William Toomey and J. H. Gropengieser represented Sully County in the Statehood convention held in Huron on January 16, 1889.

The gradual uprooting of a once thriving community was due, chiefly, to the loss of the county seat, but it was somewhat hastened by the general conditions of the country. The crop failures had been so discouraging that there had been a general exodus of settlers who had scattered to the four winds in search of new locations. In the middle nineties Mrs. McFall was able to count eleven states and territories which contained one or more of the young people who had been her pupils.

Okobojo

The village of Okobojo was laid out in the spring of 1883, before Sully County was organized. The first settlers to locate there were Merit Sweney, townsite agent, and A. C. Parsons, who started the first store. After a year he sold to Captain Bliss Sutherland, who ran it for several years before turning it over to his son, Frank. This store passed through several hands until it was purchased by Alex McGannon in 1892, who finally sold it to his son in 1908. J. D. Gustafson purchased the store in August, of 1925.

The second business to be established was a hardware store which opened the summer of 1884, by Captain W. W. Stewart and H. R. Mills. Later this store was sold to William Brownlee and a general stock of merchandise was added.

Other early mercantile businesses included a shoe store operated by John Bradley, and when the town of Clifton finally vanished from the map, Norris Willits, who had been running a general store at that place, moved his building to Okobojo and operated it there for several years.

The first hotel accommodations were by the Bunch family. E. P. Bunch filed on a tract of land adjoining the village and built a two-story building which was used for that purpose. This building was

later moved to the farm of James Bagby in Grandview Township, and later moved back to Okobojo to become the farm of Hal Glessner, just south of the village.

D. F. Sweetland was the first loan agent, locating in 1883. He remained for about eight years.

The first birth in Okobojo was that of Arlie M. Carpenter, on February 26, 1884.

The Okobojo Times was established in May, 1884, by Messrs. Gropengieser and Walter, at that time the publishers of the Sully County Watchman, with S. A. Travis and I. E. Frankhauser as editor and manager. During September of that year the paper was acquired by Travis and he continued to publish it until 1892, when he sold The Times to J. W. Glessner. Mr. Glessner edited the paper for the next four years, selling it in 1896 to J. A. Livingstone. The latter died in June, 1909, and from that time until March, 1910, The Times was in the hands of G. M. Livingstone, a brother of the deceased. The paper then went into the hands of William H. Green and was published by him until his death in 1923. Following the death of her husband, Mrs. Green ably edited The Times until 1924, when she sold to John D. Crawford, who piloted the sheet for the next two years, selling



Alex McGannon Store and Post Office, Okobojo, Early 1900's.



A Group of Okobojo Pioneers, About 1900. Top row, left to right — Mrs. Thomas Crawford, Edith Blakemore, Mrs. Clara Mateer Floyd, Stanley Mateer, Myrtle McGannon Glessner, and Pearl Mateer. Second row — Mrs. Darb Green, Mrs. Joe Bunch, Mrs. Daisy Goddard Newell, DeEtte Lytle, Della McGannon Bagby, Maggie McGuire Tagg, Anna Floyd McEntee, Clara Mosely Warne, Carrie McNutt Owens, Mrs. Mert Owens and Mrs. Belle Mateer. Third row — Mrs. Capitola Lytle, Madge Glessner Green, Susie Felton McMacken, Baby Dorothy McMacken, Elizabeth McGannon, Dollie Crawford Crog, Mrs. J. M. Bagby, Mrs. F. E. Blakemore, Baby Emily Malick and Owens Malick. Fourth row — Fern Green, Hazel Mateer, Edwina Mateer Harry, Grace Mateer, Charlotte Crawford Sommers, Myrtle Crawford Eakin, Florence Owens, Henrietta Mateer Larson and Margaret Owens.

it to his brother William. In 1928, the newspaper was purchased by G. J. Zimmer, who published it for a year from the office of the Onida Watchman at Onida, at which time it died a natural death for lack of patronage.

The Presbyterian Church of Okobojo was organized on July 18, 1887, with the Reverends Charles Londen and John B. Pomeroy officiating. Charles S. Mateer was chosen elder, and W. H. Kidoo, W. T. McNeill and J. W. Johnston, the first trustees.

A postoffice was established in 1884, and C. H. Whitman commissioned postmaster.

As Okobojo was the central point for gatherings for the southwestern part of Sully County, various kinds of celebrations were held there. The first of any importance was the Fourth of July opening in 1884. Other celebrations followed, along with literary society meetings held in the schoolhouse which was built in the fall of 1883. Miss Ethel Colby was the teacher beginning the spring term on May 19, 1884, with ten pupils.

Okobojo's first Christmas was cele-

brated in the schoolhouse with a free dinner, the first of its kind in the county. The school room was decorated for the occasion, and Superintendent Staples furnished maps and charts for the walls, contributed a turkey and had much to do with the origin of numerous pumpkin pies.

Mrs. Elizabeth McGannon, who was known as "Grandma McGannon" died on May 6, 1913, at the ripe old age of 94 years and three months. She moved to Sully County with her husband and family in the spring of 1883, and homesteaded land in Okobojo Township.

The first schoolhouse became a landmark in that part of the county for many years, and it was used for school purposes continuously until 1920, when the building was sold and the town provided a more modern school building. However, the purchaser had not removed the old building from its original site when it was struck by lightning the night of September 14, 1921, and burned to the ground. Work had already begun in October, 1919, on a new schoolhouse which was located northeast of the old site.



Okobojo's Baseball Team. 1903 - 1907. Back row, left to right — George Bunch, Alex McGannon, (unknown) and Mont Groseclose. Middle row — Lawrence "Pete" Coleman, Robert Coleman, Dan Sheets and Ross Green. Front row — William Crawford and Henry Groseclose.

What was probably the most terrific hail storm in a period of thirty years, swept up the Okobojo valley on July 3, 1921, for a distance of forty miles, laying waste a strip of country varying in width from four to ten miles. The desolation in places in total crops of grain and corn swept flat, trees defoliated and buildings battered was almost beyond belief. Even the native grass in places was cut to the stubble. Borne on the wings of a gale that reached an estimated velocity of from sixty to seventy miles per hour, the hail stones, many of which were as large as goose eggs, required only a few minutes to complete their destruction. Much of the actual crop damage was covered by state insurance, but the unprotected loss in crops, livestock, poultry, gardens and buildings was many thousands of dollars.

Mr. Hancock, owner of the Okobojo Cream Station, reported that during the month of May, 1926, 101 cans of cream, worth over \$1,000.00, were shipped.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Crawford, pioneers since 1883, celebrated their golden wedding anniversary in October, 1926.

Mrs. Charles Coleman, Mrs. George Lumley, Jr., and Miss Arline Anderson

gave the eighth grade examinations to a class of 19 at the Community Hall on May 26 and 27, 1927. The following pupils took the examination: Beryl McGannon, John Glessner, Maurice Flansburg, Wayne Groseclose, Ernest Steffens, Rose and Mary Bush, Melvin Harbert, Frank Pitlick, George A. Basil, Howard Byrum, Lawrence Serbousek, Hazel and Alberta Ripley, Dorothy Morgart, Maurice Green, Albert McGruder, Henry Coleman and Ave Speece.

Stanley Mateer, a former Okobojo boy before moving to Huron, South Dakota, sang, "My Task" before President and Mrs. Calvin Coolidge at church services in Hermosa, South Dakota, on Sunday, June 26, 1927.



Combine equipment, belonging to Bill Ruckle, being pulled across Okobojo Creek with a cable in 1928.

Fort Sully Old and New

Old Fort Sully was built by General Alfred Sully in the autumn of 1863, on the east side of the Missouri River. It was built of logs with earth roofs, and had accommodations for two companies.

Intended as a cavalry post, it was found that insufficient hay was grown in the vicinity to supply the establishment, so in 1866, a new post was erected thirty miles farther up the river where hay was more abundant. The old post, which was located a mile east of the Indian School at Pierre, was abandoned. The most notable event which took place at Old Fort Sully was the Treaty Council of 1865 (October), in which the troubles following the outbreak were composed.



One of the Original Buildings of Fort Sully, Erected in 1866.

New Fort Sully was established on July 25, 1866, 28 miles up the river from Pierre, on the east side of the Missouri River, in Sully County. There were quarters for four companies, built of cottonwood logs; thirteen sets of officers' quarters; hospital, guard house, six store houses, frame stables, laundry quarters (ten sets of frame buildings), bakery, ice house, root house and a brick magazine. The reservation had an area of forty-two square miles.

Water was hauled to the post with wagons from the Missouri River, and a

twelve months' supply was kept on hand.

This was an important post during the period of the Indian wars, including the Messiah War of 1890. Many military enterprises against the Sioux outfitted there. The fort was abandoned in 1894, and the buildings sold to settlers. Piece by piece the structures were torn down, moved away, or destroyed by the elements of nature.

After abandonment as a military post, the range in the preserve was leased for grazing to ranchers. The greater portion was leased during June, of 1899, to George W. Lumley, R. M. Snyder, William Floyd and others at a price of five cents an acre for a term of years.

In July, 1908, the state Land Department leased the remaining range of old Fort Sully reservation to T. J. Steele, of Iowa. The tract at that time comprised 11,000 acres, and was enclosed with a fence on one side, a short line on the north and the Missouri River enclosing the balance. It was a rectangular piece of property, 300 feet square, situated on the crest of a knoll, 300 feet above the river and commanding a view of the Missouri breaks and the river itself for many miles in three directions.

In 1910, the land was deeded to the state of South Dakota by W. J. Roadman, Maud Roadman and Johanna Roadman, of West Moreland County, Pennsylvania, and made into a small State Park. Its location and true natural beauty, combined with



The old Fort Sully Barn shortly before it crumbled to the ground in 1929.

early history, made it an ideal spot for such a park. Trees were replaced and a fence constructed around the site.

As of January 1, 1957, Fort Sully vanished from the active records of Sully County, and for the second time in the history of this area, the memorable name of Fort Sully was once again chucked deeper into the archives of time.

Many visitors still go to the ruins of the old fort every summer and are frequently rewarded by finding some relic of the past.



FORT SULLY MONUMENT

On September 21, 1929, forty-one years after the abandonment of Fort Sully, the Men's Clubs of Onida and Okobojo joined with the Old Settlers' Association in dedicating a monument, purchased and planned by those clubs, to mark the historic site.

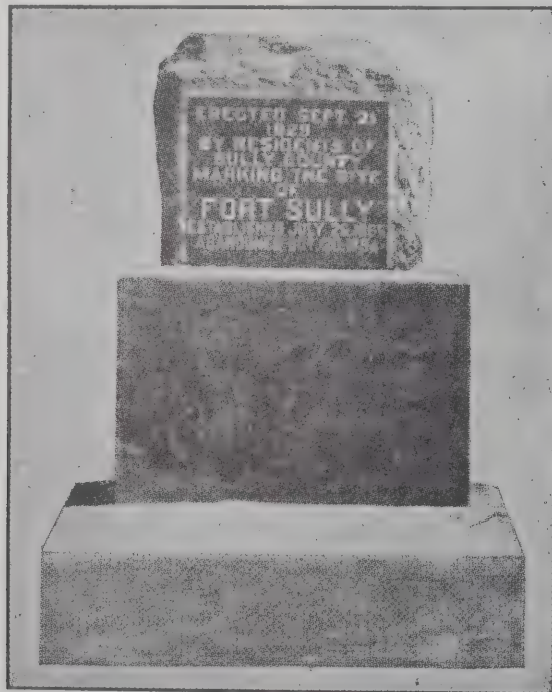
The monument occupies a very commanding position facing westward and overlooking a large wooded belt fringing

the Missouri River, half a mile off, and looking across the restless, muddy waters to the bluffs beyond. Back of the structure to the east is a range of bluffs.

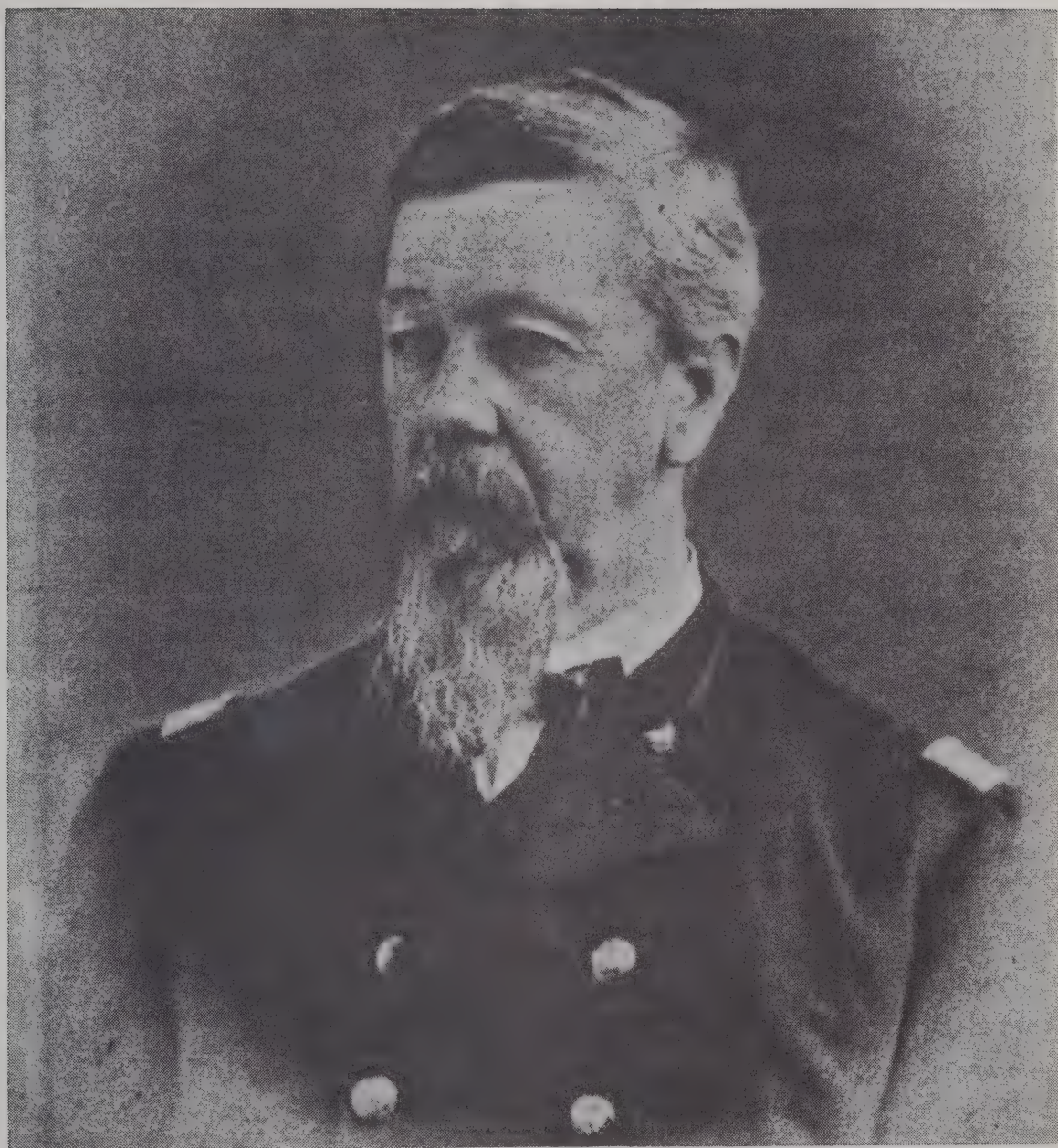
The marker is eight feet tall, and consists of a concrete base upon which a large boulder is placed and inscribed as follows: "Erected by the residents of Sully County, September 21, 1929, marking the site of Fort Sully. Established July 28, 1866. Abandoned October 20, 1894."

The Men's Clubs, which cooperated to make this marker a reality, purchased four acres of land from the state of South Dakota, and thereby own the historic site.

The program for the occasion of placing the marker on the site was very impressive. It included music by Kecks' Kornet Kids, Onida's juvenile band, and speeches by noted state men, such as Doane Robinson, Secretary of Agriculture Kriebs, Governor Bulow and Judge Hughes, who had often visited the fort in early days.



Marker at Site of Fort Sully. Granite marker, appropriately inscribed, erected at the site of Fort Sully by Men's Clubs of Onida and Okobojo.



GENERAL ALFRED SULLY

For Whom Sully County Was Named

GENERAL ALFRED SULLY

by

Will G. Robinson

State Historian

General Alfred Sully, for whom Sully County was named, first came into South Dakota in early 1855, when he made a reconnaissance with a small party from Fort Ridgely in Minnesota on the Minnesota River out via of Lake Kampeska to Snake River at its mouth on the James near Redfield, and then up that river and through Faulk County until he left that river and came into Sully County, which he transversed in going to Fort Pierre.

By the time of the Civil War, General Sully had been promoted from a Captain to a Colonel, and in 1863, he was Commanding Officer and then Brigadier General of the Expedition that came up the Missouri, headquartered in Peoria Bottom, where Oahe Mission later was and then ascended the Missouri, crossing Sully County to Swan Creek and then up the Missouri into North Dakota, almost to where Bismarck is located. Late in the fall, he fought a battle with the Indians at White Stone Hill, not far from the present Ellendale, North Dakota.

General Sully's column then returned to the bottoms near Farm Island, east of Pierre, where a fort was built for winter occupancy in 1863-64. It was built by part of Sully Command, under a Colonel Bartlett, for whom the fort was first named, but later its name was changed to Fort Sully. It was from there that General Sully launched his successful expedition against the Indians in 1864, again crossing through Sully County en route to Killdeer Mountain, where in August, 1864, he defeated the Sioux in a great battle.

His troops largely returned to Forts Sully, Thompson and Randall the winter of 1864-65, and in 1865, the Treaty Commissioners met at Fort Sully to conclude their many treaties with the Sioux Indians.

The next year it was determined to move upstream to New Fort Sully which was commenced in July, 1866, and which also bore the name of Fort Sully being merely a movement of the Fort from near Farm Island to what is now western Sully County.

Sully County

In The Beginning

It seems highly likely that the first men to ever visit Sully County was the Verendrye Party of 1743, who placed the historic tablet on the hill at what is now Fort Pierre. Fifty years later, Jacques d'Eglise, a Frenchman, working for the Spaniards, who then owned this area, was certainly in Sully County as he worked his way up the Missouri to trade with the Aricara and Mandan Indians. He had with him Pierre Garreau, who having some creditors in St. Louis, Missouri, whom he did not care to further encounter, stayed up the Missouri and undoubtedly Garreau was also, from time to time, in the county.

When Lewis and Clark came up the river in 1804, they had enough trouble with the Tetons of Black Buffalo at Fort Pierre to make them very apprehensive of camping on the shore, and so as they passed by Sully County on the 29th and 30th of September and the 1st and 2nd of October, they camped on sand bars in the river, first near Okobojo Island, then in the Little Bend area below the Cheyenne, then over in Dewey County above the Cheyenne and finally near Artichoke Creek.

It was the 1873 Legislature that went on a county making spree who, by Section 16 of Chapter 33 of its Session Laws, created Sully and named it for the fort which was located in the county which had been named for Captain Alfred Sully, then a general. Creating a county was about the easiest thing in the world to do and the legislature created so many that year that they almost run out of names.

It was not until April 19, 1883, that Sully County was organized. On that day, Nathaniel H. Young, George J. Millett and Benjamin P. Hoover met at the home of F. M. Lovell, located on the Southwest quarter of Section 17, Township 113, Range 80 (this was just north of Okobojo Creek and close to the Fort Sully Reservation line and about two and a half miles up the Creek). They elected Millett, chairman; Hoover, temporary clerk, and adjourned to meet at Fort Sul-

ly on the 20th. On the 24th, Millett resigned and Young was elected chairman. They did little but meet and adjourn, but on May 14th, they met and elected George J. Millett, Jr. sheriff. That day a man named Agar, probably Charles H.—the record is silent—came in with a petition to name Onida as county seat. Onida did have a post office, Benjamin T. Brier had been appointed postmaster. This was quite a point in Onida's favor on that 14th day of May 1883. Despite the petition, which was duly filed, when they adjourned that meeting it was to meet at Clifton on the 23rd of May. They met at Clifton which they said was located on the W $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of 9-113-78, and that day they appointed J. A. Nelson, register of deeds; Henry Potter, assessor, and Charles H. Agar, treasurer, and then located the county seat of Sully County on Block 17 of Clifton, the plat for which had been duly registered in the office of the Register of Deeds of Hughes County a few days prior thereto. So finally Sully County was organized. The commissioners were the appointees of Governor Nehemiah H. Ordway who, in many a county had appointed men who would put the county seat where he directed and usually for his benefit, for he was an early bird getting himself, or his son George, in on the ground floor if at all possible.

While the township line surveyors had been in the county prior to 1875, the first township to be subdivided into sections and quarter corners established was Township 113, Ranges 78 and 79 where Thomas R. Medary had completed the surveying in October, 1875. The next townships to be sub-divided were not until 1881.

When the surveyors arrived they found, in a few instances, some "sooners," people already squatting on the land. Late in August, 1882, they found two cabins located on 113-75; one on the SW of 20, and the other on the NE of 29. However, they did not record the names of the owners. In October, 1881, Miles T. Wooley had noted plowed ground on the SW of

35-114-74, the NE of 32, the SE of 29, and the NE of 29. Wooley noted a man named Stevenson living in an abode on the SE of 17. He also noted some sort of a structure, a dugout, shack or something on the NW of 28, SE of 29, SW of 33, SW of 34, SW of 27 and the SE of 35, thus indicating that the southern part of Pleasant Township had quite a few settlers, altho he named but one.

Out in Township 114-89, now called Okobojo, H. C. Fellows, the surveyor, found Brennan's Ranch on the NW of 31, south of Okobojo, close to where the little town of Okobojo existed for many years. All this happened between September 25 and 28, 1882. There were a pair of parallel roads running north up to Section 6.

This same H. C. Fellows had surveyed Township 114-80 in September, 1881, where Sully Buttes are located, and there had not only located the main road running NE and the telegraph line north from Fort Sully, but J. B. Vincent on the NW of 36 with some plowing adjacent to his residence. Thus we have Vincent and Stevenson in the county, at least in 1881.

Others in the county, who were there when the surveyors arrived, were Claymore, on the SW of 19 in Little Bend, found by George A. Fessenden in July 1884, and probably there for a long time before that; Henderson on the NE of 4; A. Runyan on the NE of 9, and another Runyan on the SW of 10 in 115-82 up in the Little Bend area.

Up near Archichoke Buttes, in 116-74, H. C. Fellows, when surveying that township in October, 1882, located Vance Pearman near the river in Section 18. Fessenden had noted a building and some plowing in the SW of 34-116-82 in June, 1884, and a man named Rice close to the river on the NW of 32, just about as far up in the bend as a man could go without a boat.

The surveyors led a hum-drum life at best and when they could site a dugout, or a bit of plowing they put it right down to the nearest chain and link. If any one was home they took his name and if he knew who lived on some of the other locations, they also recorded that information.

These early records, which we have on maps and on micro-film, are very enlightening. They do not furnish evidence of when a man came to the country, but

they are about as good evidence that he was in the country on a certain day as can be found. — By Will G. Robinson, State Historian.



Attributes and Location

Sully County is situated on the east side of the Missouri River in the south central portion of Dakota, and was conceded to be the most beautiful country in this great territory—a distinction of which it may well be proud. It contains some 800,000 acres of as fine agricultural and grazing lands as the sun ever shone upon, only awaiting the plowman and stockgrower to fill their pockets with easily made wealth and their hearts with content.

Sully County is better watered than many parts of the West, having the Okobojo Creek, Medicine Creek, Spring Creek, Cow Creek and the Artichoke, besides its western boundary being washed for some forty miles by the mighty Missouri. Also, the great advantage of being located in the rain belt of the great Missouri Valley. Many wells of good water are found, varying from eight to thirty feet.

The surface of the country is beautiful to behold, rolling just enough to afford an excellent drainage. The soil is a deep vegetable mould, very rich in the elements which produce wheat, oats, corn, flax and many other grains in their highest perfection and greatest abundance.

Much of the stock run at large with neither food nor shelter, other than that offered by the prairie and the canopy of heaven—Sully County.



Beginning of Free Education

In the beginning of our national public school system, equal privileges of education for everyone was bitterly contested. That is difficult to understand today, with our sincere interest in every phase of education for the children of our nation and community.

In 1883, the first man who had the courage to openly address an audience in favor of public schools was arrested and thrown into jail. Persecution was the fate of many of those heroes of the past who dared to speak out for progressive, free education for rich and poor alike. However, a seed was planted, nourished and

grew; and how it has grown, until today every locality shows the results and achievements of those early advanced ideas.

The early settlers realized that education was essential, along with so many other first needs, and they never hesitated or wasted time in establishing schools for their children.



Early Sully County Education

When Sully County was organized early in 1883, David Staples, of Llewellyn Park Township, was appointed superintendent of schools at a salary of \$150.00 a year. The first school election was on August 15, of that year, to elect township officers and to adopt township names.

Superintendent Staples called a meeting of newly elected school officers and interested citizens to meet at Clifton on October 27, to adopt uniform textbooks and discuss other school needs. Many of those first books were whatever the home and community could provide.

The first schools in Sully County were at Clifton, organized in November, 1883, with Mrs. V. M. McFall as teacher; Okobojo, January, 1884, with Miss Ethel Colby as teacher, and Onida, in 1884, with Miss Emma Jeffers as teacher. David Hall also started a school in his home for the children of Blaine Township in the spring of 1884. The terms were short, usually

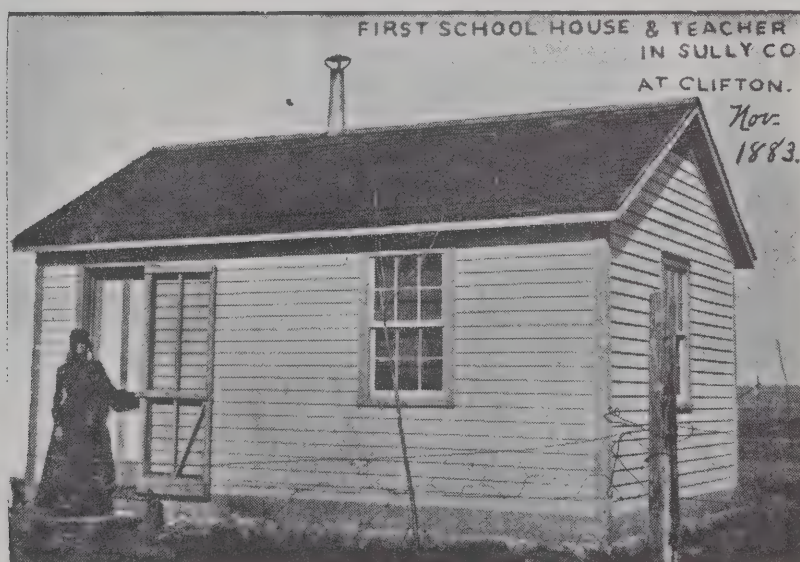
three or four months either fall or spring or a short period both seasons. Thus education was on its way in Sully County.

After completing organization of the county, a regular election of county officers was held on November 4, 1884. At that time Loren D. Carr, of Buffalo Township, a younger man, was elected county superintendent.

Much credit and honor is due Superintendent Staples during the two years that he held office. He assisted in establishing new schools and finding the most qualified teachers; interpreted new laws, rules and regulations; encouraged districts to organize and build, and assisted in obtaining sufficient supplies and furnishings. All this, he did, with a meager salary, no office, nor suitable record books or expense allowance. He gave his best to educational development in our young country. Staples died April 1, 1888, and was buried in the Okobojo cemetery.

Superintendent Carr organized the first Teachers' Institute at Clifton in July, 1885. These meetings were training sessions for the teachers and most valuable in gaining more knowledge of subject matter and learning better teaching methods. In 1886, the institute meetings were held in Onida.

J. M. Porter was elected superintendent in 1889. South Dakota became a state that year and adopted a new course of study. It then became Superintendent



First Schoolhouse in Sully County, 1883. Mrs. V. M. McFall, teacher.



Teachers' Institute, Onida, September, 1888. Left to right — Andrew McFall, Mrs. Pratt, Coe Byrum, Unknown, J. Livingstone, C. L. Howard, Jonathan Owen, Unknown, Mrs. F. M. Chamberlain, Mrs. McFall, Millie Beach, Mrs. J. B. Gleason, Mr. Pickert, Flora Graham, Mrs. E. E. Brooking, Delle (Finch) Weed, Wilbur Eakin, Hattie (Hunt) Doner, Maude (Hunt) Anderson, Unknown, Mrs. J. F. Cole, Linnie Cole, Maud (Cole) Garner, J. M. Porter, Lena Greer, Azelia Owen, Unknown, L. D. Carr, Mabel Mills, John Livingstone, Lois (Spencer) Houck, Charlie Meloon, DeEtte Lillibridge, Reno Livingstone, Unknown, Jennie Scott, John McCray, Leon French, Mrs. Mercer and Miss Helm. On roof — H. D. Enoe, C. W. Johnson, Unknown.

Porter's responsibility to interpret and introduce this new course of study.

Shortage of funds was always a problem and in 1891, when it looked as though there was no money to hold the institute meeting, a request was made to the State Department of Education to allow Sully County's own Mrs. V. M. McFall to conduct the meeting. This was granted, and the following year, when Mrs. McFall became county superintendent, the appointment was given to Porter to conduct the meetings. So by conservative ingenuity, the institute meetings were continued through the years.

In 1892, when Mrs. McFall was county superintendent, a new and better course of study was published, and under her guidance and helpfulness, was introduced to the teachers throughout the county.

By means of horse and buggy transportation, the various superintendents faithfully visited every school in the county at least once. During Mrs. McFall's term of office, \$15.00 per quarter was ad-



Mrs. V. M. McFall
Sully County's first teacher at Clifton, 1883, and County Superintendent from 1892-1896.

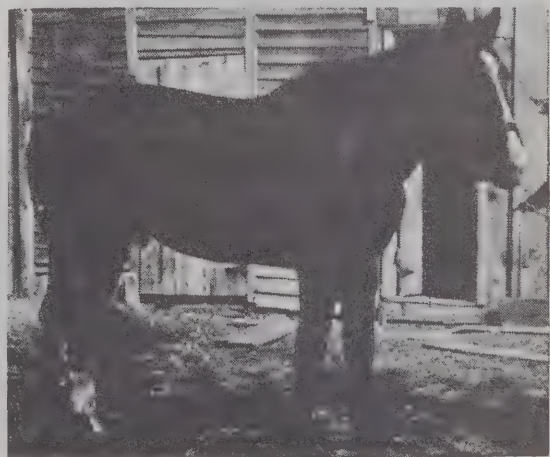


Teachers' Institute, 1903. Front row, left to right — Arthur Livingstone, Bess Gropengieser, Otto Comstock and Frank Hyde. Second row — Clara Harris, Eda Persson, Sadie (Nystrom) Lein, Blanche Nelson, Kathy Temmey, unidentified, Elva (Hyde) Nelson, Matilda Peterson, Mr. Ripperton, unidentified, Alvin Mulligan and Luther Nelson. Third row — Minnie Livingstone, Francis Barber, Institute Instructor, M. A. Lange (Instructor), Jessie Livingstone, T. L. Mitchell, Mrs. Mitchell and baby and Mrs. V. M. McFall. Fourth row — Robert Courtney, Clara Morford, unidentified, Bessie Buck, Sadie Kane, Ellen Persson, Anna Persson, Florence (Atkinson) Groseclose, Ecaphine Bunch, unidentified, and Jessie (Chamberlain) Hunsley. Back row — Edna Clark, Emma Tagg, Marie Marso, Lulu (Schilling) Parker, Bertha (Adams) Haverly, Blanch (Bagby) Baker, Emma (Nelson) Lister, Mable (Finch) Arneson, Marion (Benson) Trumble, Nelle Castello and Louise (Haverly) Spencer.

ded as expense allowance towards the cost of maintaining the office in her home. This plan continued until 1911, when the court house was completed.

Mrs. McFall purchased the horse formerly used by superintendents Carr and Porter as a means of transportation in visiting her county schools. This horse made the trip so many times through the years that Mrs. McFall often said he followed the trails and made various stops with little guidance. He was the pet of the children as well as a most faithful servant.

Minnie A. Porter succeeded Mrs. McFall in 1897, and continued introduction of the grading system as provided in the



Horse purchased by Mrs. McFall
as a means of transportation



Eighth Grade Graduating Class, 1907. Miss Emma Nelson, superintendent. Front row, left to right — Leo Temmey and Bess Gropengieser. Middle row — Florence Jordan, May Gerlack, Ella Maxwell, Gertrude Holmes, Grace Dunlap and Frances Tagg. Back row — Bertha Shaver, Beulah Bagby, Addie Sorenson, Art Livingstone, Gladys Parker, Ernest Currier and Mary Gerlack.

course of study, and established the eighth grade examination.

Next in line as superintendent was Miss Emma Nelson in 1901. She made an interesting feature of eighth grade commencement exercises. During her term of office new studies of manual training and agriculture were added to the curriculum.



Minnie Porter



T. L. Mitchell

T. L. Mitchell followed in 1909. During his administration Onida became an independent district and he became the first principal of Onida High School which was established that year.

There were 57 schools in the county by 1909, with an average monthly wage of \$48.00, and out of the 650 children of school age, 527 were enrolled.

The Beadle Memorial Statue was unveiled as part of the ceremonies during

the S.D.E.A. convention held in Pierre during November, 1911.

Most of the schoolhouses became community centers for Sunday schools, church services, literary socials and community celebrations of all kinds.

Many school buildings were lost during these years because of the great fire hazard.

After Statehood, the superintendent's salary was changed from \$150.00 to \$400.00 a year, and has gradually increased. In 1958, the salary was approximately \$3400.00, plus benefits of expense accounts. Qualification for superintendency is now a bachelor's degree.

At first, teachers salaries ranged from \$20.00 to \$35.00 per month. There was a gradual rise until in 1920, a maximum of \$175.00 was reached. In 1950, the average salary was \$2900.00 per year.

The first institutes were held for two weeks and were in the form of a normal training course. In 1919, they met for only three days after school had opened in September.

The term of school varied from 20 days to 120 days a year. In 1958, the terms are nine full months, or 180 days.

Blaine was the first school in Sully County to receive state aid and gradually all the schools worked toward a qualified standard for state aid which helped to im-



John Schreiber School. 1907. Front row, left to right — John Schreiber, Jr., Dale Davis and Reid Davis. Middle row — Arnold Schreiber, Helen Davis, Sybel Davis and Alma Schreiber. Back row — Frank Merrill (teacher), Fern Otto, Dora Westphal, Melvin Todd, Esther Schreiber, Charlie Todd and Sophia Schreiber.

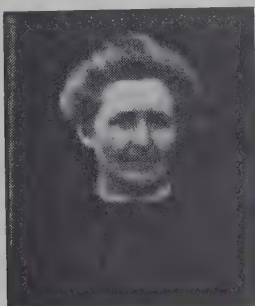
prove the quality of education in the county.

Miss Jessie Livingstone began her term as county superintendent in 1913, and served four years. J. T. Hayes became her successor in 1917, and served two terms and also deputy for his successor, Miss Fern Barber. Hayes again became superintendent in 1923.

Rural School Day was started in 1922, and is still an important event

among the schools of the county. It is a well organized field and track meet for boys and girls, and provides excellent opportunity to widen friendships among students. The first meet was held at Blaine school on May 5, attended by about 300 patrons, teachers and students.

The following schools and their teachers were present: Elk, Miss Martha Schock; Lake, Mr. Tegethoff; Lincoln,



Jessie Livingstone



J. T. Hayes



Fern Barber



First Field and Track Meet, Blaine, 1922

Mrs. John Quade; Summit, Miss Lena Shore, pupils of North school; Goodwater, Miss Lois Roach; Clifton, Miss Mildred Hanson and Miss LaVere Hyde; Buffalo, Miss Roivenac; Garner, Miss Elsie Byrum and Mrs. McQuire; Richvalley, Mrs. G. Fisher and pupil of Vetter school; Fairview, Miss Mildred Youngberg; Norfolk, Miss Mae Youngberg; Cora, Floyd Green; Pearl, Miss Melitta Osterkamp, and Blaine, Mrs. Mable Jack and Mrs. Ereka Eller.

The first committee to plan and help organize this event consisted of Mildred (Hanson) Sutton, Margaret (Hyde) Laughery and Elsie (Gustafson) Lein, Superintendent Hayes was the advisor of the committee.

It is interesting to note that Joe Mendel took part in the seventh and eighth grade division at that first event, and was high point man for his age group. Superintendent Hayes and Luther Nelson acted as the first judges. Lincoln school won the greatest number of points that day, scoring 16.

At one of the Rally Days in later years, 1928, the audience was entertained at a May Day festival, featuring the crowning of the May Queen and a "May Pole" dance, under the supervision of Mrs. Edward Klix. Airplane rides were also an exciting event that day.

Rally Day has been a part of Sully County schools for 37 years, and the enthusiasm and eagerness shown each year at this annual event indicates that it is very likely to continue for many years to come.

In 1928, Sully County won first on its school exhibits at the State Fair. The

following year an exhibit was taken to the S.D.E.A. meeting in Aberdeen and was selected as the outstanding school display and sent to Japan. The students and



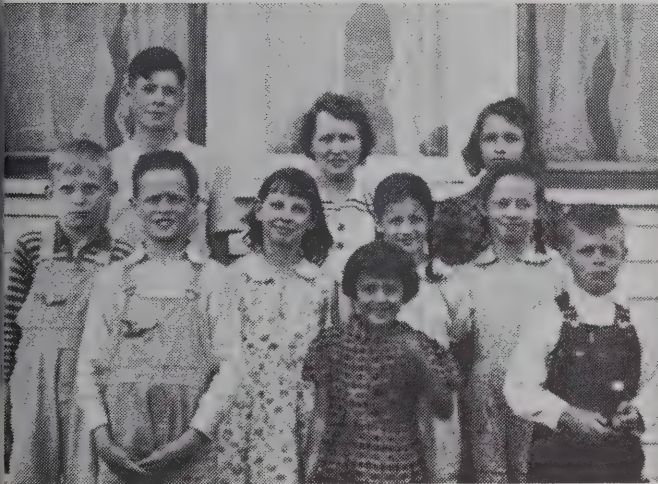
Henry Groseclose Children, Means of transportation to and from Lewellyn Park School, 1925



Students of North Troy School, 1930. Mrs. John Sutton, teacher. Left to right—Alvin Heien, Lauretta Heien (on horse), Lyle Merrill, Alma Heien, Vera Wagner (on horse) and Orville Wagner.



Students of South Troy School, 1943. Front row, left to right—Eugene Byrum, Alice Byrum, Raymond Wagner, Jim Sutton, Jr. and Maynard Wagner. Back row—Beverly Wilcox, Mildred Byrum, Velva Brehe, Mable Byrum and Wayne Teets.



Students of Wiedeman School, 1940. Front row—left to right—William H. Brandt, Jr., Gertrude Doerr and Raymond Doerr. Middle row—Darrell Mikkelsen, Jeannine Mikkelsen, Doris Brandt and Carolyn Doerr. Back row—Donald Brandt, Mrs. Frances Pierce (teacher) and Avis Brandt.



Students of North Troy School, 1943. Left to right—Lois Sutton, Ethel Heien, John Sutton, Jr., (Matt), Thelma Sutton and Velma Wagner.



Byrum School, 1938. Ednamae (Thomas) Day, teacher. Front row, left to right—Leonetta Schlenker, Bob Spaid and Elliott Byrum. Back row—Phyllis Byrum, Erna Schlenker and Raymond Schlenker.

exhibits sent included: American Doll—Cleo Eller, Patricia Nelson and Phyllis Allison; Penmanship—Elsie Wipf, Maurine Mendel, Albert Wipf, Ida Becker, Valentine Mendel, Ruby Warne and Velma Warne; Free Hand Cutting—Leonard Picolet, Lovena Harry and Kenneth Morgart; Y.C.L. Books—Edward McKeown, Donald Naughton, Vern Garrett, Muriel Jones and Pearl Robbennolt; Pastel Crayon—Karol Hanson, Elvin Todd, Leland Tegland, Maurice Green and Alvin Thomas; Arithmetic Book—Charles Serbousek, Robert Blink, Bernice Serbousek, Velma Rans, Marvin Kennedy and Horton Rans; Loom Work—Wesley Probst, Helen Vet-



Students of Goodwater School touring State House, 1955. Left to right — Gov. Joe Foss; back row — Steve Goddard, Worth Carlson, Wayne Ferries, Sharon Tobin, Barbara Goddard, Sharon Edge and Shirley Edge. Front row — Truman Goddard, Carol Edge, Carol Ferries, Gloria Goddard, Jerome Carlson, Sharon Beasstrom, Connie Edge, Miss Maxine McGruder (teacher) and Senator Lee Warne.

ter, Dorothy and Cora Vader; Posters — Velma, Ruby and Walter Warne; Gesso Work — Katie Zeuge and Gustor Schroeder, and Basketry — Edna Unruh, Vance McKenney, Anna Wipf, Clara Wipf and Naomi Dwyer.

Many extra curricular activities became an interesting part of rural school life, such as Y.C.L. conventions, spelling contests, music festivals, rural field and track meets and declamation and essay contests which all helped to create happy occasions in the school life of the country student, and at the same time improved school standards.



Elsie (Gustafson) Lein

Mrs. Elsie (Gustafson) Lein, daughter of pioneer homesteaders, began serving her term of office as county superintendent in 1933, and continued until 1937, when William Buol was elected to the office.

County Superintendent Buol served Sully County faithfully and well from the time he was elected to that office, and is presently serving in that capacity. It is impossible to measure the value of such a dedicated person as Superintendent Buol and those faithful superintendents preceding him who served Sully County.

A County School Board was appointed in the fall of 1955, for the pur-

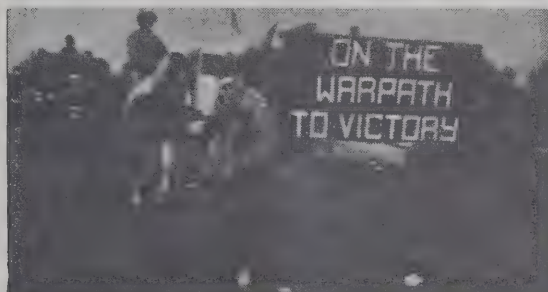


Students of North Buffalo School, 1958. Front row, left to right — Jean Walters and Darlene Thomas. Back row — Edith Clark, Opal Campbell (teacher) and Barbara Thomas.



Eighth Grade Graduating Class, 1956. Front row — Alice Serbousek, Sharon Cass, Karen Ludwig and Mary Goosen. Middle row — Rona Todd, Sandra Pullman, Carolyn Kennedy and Corenne Weischedel. Back row — Bob Pierce, Dennis Lehmkuhl, unidentified, Wayne McGruder, Weldon Stephens, Gary Blackwell, Tom Lindell and Ronnie Terrell.

pose of preparing a master plan for school reorganization. The members of the board were George Lytle, president, Mrs. Ern Wittler, Vernon Garrett, Garrett Reynolds, and Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Venner.



Students of North Buffalo School Parading on Homecoming Day, 1958

The future for Sully County is represented in its school children of today. These future citizens, without a doubt, will someday be found in all parts of the world; some to build quietly in their own community, and others to do more notable deeds elsewhere. It matters little. What really is important is that each child is very valuable and deserving to be trained and live his life in the best possible way, according to his talents. So may the parents and the schools of the future continue to make improvements in preparing our children for later life.—M. S.

★ ★ ★ **CONSERVATION**

Little Bend Game Preserve

In May, 1935, a scout from the federal government was sent to the Little Bend of the Missouri River, part of Sully County, to investigate the possibilities of using Little Bend as an upland game preserve. The scout's impressions were so

favorable that his report brought a commission of three appraisers into Sully County in June, of that year. One of these men was Paul Neavill, who was appointed project manager. Mr. Neavill spent several months trying to get options on the land in the Little Bend country, and by March 1, of 1936, the project had developed so far that the government had practically purchased the whole of the Bend for something like \$70,000, and a force of approximately 50 men were put to work there.

In the meantime, an office had been established in Onida with a force of six people, headed by Neavill. The field force of workers was headed by C. B. Knox as foreman, and Victor Steffen as field superintendent. The development work was completed June 30. The total cost of the 14,149 acres optioned by the government for the development of this project was approximately \$95,000.

The principal features of development was the growth of more trees, shrubs and grasses to provide suitable feed for game such as grouse, prairie chickens, pheasants, quail, wild turkeys and many more varieties. Predatory animals were destroyed, existing springs developed, four impounding dams constructed, about 800 acres of timber stand improvement, several miles of fire breaks, five miles of boundary fence and some internal fence with cattle guards and an entrance pylon, 15 miles of telephone lines, three miles of road repair, development of one picnic and camping ground, construction of caretaker's house and garage and various cleanup and obliteration work necessary to put the area in a satisfactory condition.

With its completion, the supervising, upkeep and administration of the project will be turned over to the South Dakota State Game and Fish Commission.

Resettlement Celebration

April 30, 1936 was the first anniversary of the federal resettlement program in Sully County, and it was the unanimous opinion of about thirty men of the Onida business circles that this would be a fitting time to celebrate both the arrival of the federal resettlement, as well as the project of the Little Bend federal game preserve which came under a phase of this same line of conservation work.

A committee, consisting of Mayor Max Rodman, Dr. Fred R. Zeiss, O. C. Hortman, Sig Severson and Guy Rumrill, were appointed. Dr. B. M. Hart and Editor Zimmer were appointed as a committee to assist with the arrangement of the program.

LAKES

Cottonwood — Okobojo — Sully

Work was started in September, 1937, on Cottonwood, Okobojo and Sully lakes as emergency water conservation projects.

The work at Cottonwood Lake consisted chiefly of finishing up the diversion project—facing the dam across Okobojo Creek and building road crossings over the diversion ditch.



Spillway Running Over Okobojo Dam, 1942

Work at Okobojo Lake included the construction of a new type "B" spillway to prevent future damage from any large flow of water, and the addition of several feet of freeboard to strengthen the dam.

At Lake Sully it was hoped to add approximately seven more feet of freeboard to strengthen the lake in order to make it safe for possible floods and also

permit raising the spillway and water level at some future time.

Dams

During the period from 1946-1957, 1500 dams were constructed in Sully County at a cost of about \$715,000. These dams hold back approximately 7500 acre feet of water, sufficient to cover land one foot deep over a 12 mile area. Numerous groves of trees were developed around the dams.

Water supply to the farmers is available on practically every quarter of prairie land, whereas, in the early days, it was necessary to haul water in barrels for many miles.

Drainage ditches were constructed to drain several hundred acres of lowlands and put them back into production. Livestock production increased to a figure approximately twice the cost of the dams. With more evaporation from the dams, there has been greater rainfall, resulting in better crops.

Trees

What was possibly the largest tree plantings in Sully County in recent years took place during April in 1949, on three Sully County farms, when 12,000 trees were planted.

Fifty-four hundred trees were planted on the Geoff Garrett farm in southwestern Sully County. This planting was a field shelterbelt. Garrett believes that in addition to providing a refuge for wild game, the trees will conserve moisture by stopping snow and wind evaporation.

A farmstead shelterbelt, including 6,500 trees, was planted on the James Sutton farm in northwestern Sully County. The belt covered about ten acres on the west and north of the farm buildings. Various kinds of trees were planted—cedar, Chinese elm, American elm, hybrid elm, cottonwood, wild plum and caragana.

Eight hundred caragana, Chinese elm and American elm were planted on the Wayne Nelson farm as a farmstead shelterbelt. The planting was at the east edge of Onida and north of the Nelson farm buildings.

Three Sully County farms were district winners in the final year of the Farmstead Improvement Contest ending in 1950. They were Wayne Nelson, James Sutton and Arnold Schreiber. The district from which the three were win-

ners included all counties west of the Missouri River, and Potter, Sully and Hughes east of the river. Nelson was winner in the three-year contest, Sutton in the two-year, and Schreiber in the one-year. The placing of three farms put Sully County in an envied position, in that it was the only county in the state in which all its farms were winners in the district.

The Wayne Nelson farm was declared the state winner in the three-year bracket. It represented South Dakota in the five-state regional contest, which included North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa and Nebraska.

Soil Conservation District

The Sully County Soil Conservation District opened its office for business on April 29, 1957. The purpose of the District is to assist interested landowners in using each acre within its capabilities, and to treat it in accordance with its needs for protection and improvement.

The Board of Supervisors include Earl Kinder, chairman; Henry Hertel, vice chairman; Richard Seaman, treasurer; Earl Baxter and Emel Johnson. Soil conservation service technicians assisting the District are Robert Koerner, work unit conservationist, and Joseph Hines, conservation aid. The District has available for use to landowners and operators a John Deere grassland drill and a tree planter.

The major practices applied, with District assistance, include contour farming, contour strip cropping, terracing, fish pond improvement (stocking), tree planting and many others.

The District supervisors requested that Sully County be designated in the Great Plains Conservation Program, and have worked hard to make this a better program for the farmers and ranchers of Sully County.

In the spring of 1957, 1,256 acres of land were staked for contour farming in Sully County on Soil Conservation District co-operators farms. The colored, curving strips have added beauty to the rural landscape. The lines many times form a dollar sign (\$) and this is exactly what it means—more dollars in the farmer's pocketbooks. The best place to see the long curving strips is from the air, and the very best place to learn how farmers are using contour farming and hear what they think about it is by talking to the farmers

themselves. Jay Alexander, Vernon Garrett, Jesse Millar, Francis Kane, Pat Kane and Howard Brown are a few of the co-operators who have found that contour farming is the answer to success.

Wind strip cropping, as a preventive measure against wind erosion, can also be of great benefit. There has been a trend for too much fall plowing on the lighter soils with the result of much winter and early spring wind erosion. It took nature from the time of Columbus until the present time to lay down one inch of top soil, yet in one good dust storm, this much can be lost from a farm in a single day.

Farm Programs Are Big Business

There are 498 farmers in Sully County and 490, or 98.3 per cent, of the farms have participated in one or more of the various farm programs. A total of 388 contracts and agreements were made for Soil Bank benefits. In the Acreage Reserve program, 340 farmers took 38,845.6 acres of wheat out of production and received benefits totaling \$598,248.92. The 48 Conservation Reserve signers committed 10,951.5 acres of land for which they received \$149,744.00. In the over-all Soil Bank program in the county, 49,797.1 acres of land were taken out of production and the total payment was \$747,992.92.

Farmers of the county received a total of \$80,827.03 on a cost-share basis from the Agricultural Conservation Program during the year 1958. On the Incentive Payment Program, sheepmen of the county benefited in the amount of \$426,603.00. Of this amount \$20,723.00 was in support of wool sold, and \$5,880.00 for lambs.

Loans through the local office for farm storage facilities totaled \$14,540.00 and \$9,730.00 was secured by farmers for the purchase of grain dryers. Under the price support program, a total of \$2,011,946.00 was loaned to farmers on farm-stored and warehouse-stored commodities. The Commodity Credit Corporation had 329 bins in the county with a total capacity of 1,524,100 bushels, and there are 1,400,000 bushels in storage.

Wildlife

What will be done to replace the thousands of acres of wildlife habitat that will be inundated by the Missouri River when the reservoir fills?

This question was asked by many

people, but for the Sutton Brothers, Jim, John and Raymond, the question has already been answered. "During the past years," Jim commented, "we have planted approximately 120 acres of trees and shrubs on our own lands above the high water mark of the reservoir. In addition, we have added wildlife habitat on about 600 acres of land on other farms and ranches of Sully County by planting trees and shrubs for interested landowners as a public service prior to the time the local Sully County Soil Conservation District was organized.

Wildlife conservation is not new to the Sutton Brothers. Their father, also an avid wildlife conservationist, in 1914 brought the first buffalo into the county. The initial herd consisted of three cows and one bull. In 1938, they had a 120 buffalo herd. During that period it became so dry that the herd was cut in half. At present the existing herd of 70 head is enclosed in a special 1,000-acre pasture.

By maintaining the number of animals at a level with the carrying capacity of the range, the habitat is improved for species of wildlife such as prairie chickens, grouse and Hungarian partridge. Wildlife thrives on variety in cover types. Along the river brakes of the Missouri on the Sutton Brothers ranch this variety is unsurpassed. The deep draws are interspersed with wild plum, sumac, chokecherry and buckbrush thickets.

Deer are abundant along the 20-mile stretch of river and come up out of the trees during the night to feed in the corn and alfalfa fields, returning early in the morning to spend the daytime hours in the trees again. During the special east river deer season of 1957, along the Missouri River, it was estimated that 25 hunters took deer off the Sutton ranch. The Suttons do not prohibit hunting providing there is snow on the ground and no danger of fire. However, there is one species of bird that they do not allow hunting and that is the wild Merriam turkey. They now have approximately 116 birds. These flocks were started when 20 eggs were ordered from Pennsylvania. The Sutton Brothers have watched the spring and fall migration of ducks and geese for many years. The duck migration during the fall and winter of 1957-58 was the largest ever. They fed half the ducks in the United States, so they thought, until

it was hard to find a single kernel of corn left in any of the fields. On many occasions their 20 stockwater ponds, which dot the range, were black with mallards which stopped off for a drink after filling up with corn in surrounding fields. These 20 stockwater ponds are nesting areas for waterfowl during the breeding season and many local ducks are hatched and reared on them. In addition they are watering places for other game birds and stopping places for mink on their tour across the country in search of food. Catfish have been planted in many of these ponds. Four of them were stocked with bass and bluegills in 1958 by the Soil Conservation Service.

DISASTERS

Blizzards

The blizzard of 1888, which occurred on January 12, was the most severe on record in South Dakota. The storm extended as far east as Michigan, and west through Wisconsin, Minnesota, Dakota, Montana, Iowa, Nebraska, and southwest through Kansas and Texas to the Gulf. Reports showed much suffering and many lives lost. In Dakota alone, as many as 100 persons perished. Fortunately, there were no persons lost or frozen in Sully County. The blizzard lasted all day and night and all through the following day.

The storm began early in the morning with a strong northwest wind, accompanied by swirling powder-like snow which filled the air. People were not yet on the move that early and the stock was all under shelter in stables, because of previous deep snow on the prairie, which accounted for no loss of lives or stock.

No one ventured outdoors unless it was absolutely necessary, and then with the utmost caution, remaining close to buildings. Some used ropes and clotheslines tied to the house when going to the barn, so that they could find their way back. Thus, they managed to care for their stock.

As the little dog said when he sat on the sandpaper, "Ruff! Ruff!" So was the weather the week of January 13, 1949. Blizzard conditions starting the first of the week piled snow deep on the level and heaped snow banks around buildings, in some instances roof-high. Traffic was virtually at a standstill and all mail services into and out of town stopped. The storm was said to be the most severe in some 15

or 20 years. Reports which came by radio from over the storm area told of people stranded in buses, trains, depots and other public stations.

Drifts which had been piled up by the 60 to 70 mile an hour gale, and then settled during two days of 60-degree temperatures, could not be moved by the huge rotary and two-way plows. Engineers decided to "peel" the 15 to 20 foot drifts with bulldozers pushed by the largest crawler-type tractors available. The peeling operations were so successful that the state rented more than a dozen units from private contractors to supplement state machines. Highways were the first avenues of travel to be opened in the state following the blizzard.

Action taken by Sully County Commissioners and the state Emergency Relief committee, brought release to snowbound Sully farmers, as big "Cat" propelled plows worked their way through blocked roads. Two outfits owned by Schimkat and Kost swung into operation to each snow marooned family, some of whom had had no contact, except by radio, with the outside world for two or three weeks. These outfits broke through roads to take much-needed supplies, groceries, fuel, mail and other items to various parts of the county. The Fred West family, living 30 miles west of Onida, were reached after a week of isolation, when Wilbur Beebe, assisted by Bernie McDeid, brought fuel and groceries. Mr. and Mrs. West had been without coal for almost a week and in order to keep warm had torn down and burned the ice house on the farm. In some instances families were reported to have been subsisting on very limited diets.

Fires

A very destructive prairie fire, supposed to have been set by a Mr. Hines, near the south line of Summit Township, for the purpose of burning off a stubble field preparatory to plowing, swept over Range 77, on August 24, 1886, burning thousands of dollars worth of property of every description.

The strip of country burned was from two to five miles in width and reached from the south line of Sully to six miles north of the north line into Potter county before it could be checked and extinguished—a distance of more than 30 miles. No estimate could be made of the

value of property destroyed. Everything it came in contact with was almost instantly ignited and burned, as the grasses and grain stubble had been thoroughly dried by the late continued drouth. There was nothing to impede its progress except an occasional corn or flax field.

Farmers had been busy harvesting and no time had been spared to prepare fire-breaks. The usual guards had been made, but afforded little protection, as the wind carried the burning hay and straw great distances and scattered it over the dry prairie, thus aiding its speed.

The fire was the most destructive of any in this part of Dakota and left many families almost penniless. Many farmers had their farms and personal property so heavily mortgaged that it was next to impossible for them to even meet the interest coming due. The result was nothing less than a foreclosure and sale of what little they had left, unless the loan companies were lenient or they could receive aid from friends in the East. There were but few in the burned district who did not need and were deserving of aid.

The most destructive prairie fires ever visited this part of Dakota passed over Central and Eastern Sully County on April 2, 1889, urged on by a strong wind—registered at the Fort Sully Signal Service Station as having a velocity of 64 miles per hour—doing inestimatable damage and destroying about everything touched by the flames.

Many families were without a moments notice, rendered homeless and penniless and some barely escaping with their lives and the clothing on their backs. Houses and contents, barns, livestock, machinery, feed and grain were burned, leaving many farmers without seed, team or implements. The rich prairie grasses burned left stock without feed.

The fire that passed over the country east of Clifton originated from sparks blown from the stove-pipe of Herman Spalding, a bachelor residing some six miles northeast of this village, in Hartford township, which, as soon as the dry prairie grass was ignited, was beyond the control of any human agency. From Spalding's it passed in a southeasterly direction through Garner, eastern Clifton, Onida, Summit, Blaine, Lincoln and Lake townships, across Hughes County to the Winne-

bago Reservation, touching the northeast corner of Blunt.

Onida barely escaped destruction — the east side of the head fire passing within a few feet of the southwest corner of the village. Had it not been for a strip of breaking on C. W. Holmes' tree claim and the willing assistance of the business visitors at the county seat, the village would have been in ashes.

A relief committee, composed of W. D. Wees, chairman; Thomas M. Goddard, secretary; William Toomey, treasurer, and the Board of Commissioners, were in continuous session for two days examining the fire reports.

Many individuals from Onida and the surrounding area donated clothing, food, household articles, hay and poultry to the fire sufferers. Pierre sent \$150.00 and a wagon-load of necessities to Onida and other places in the county for distribution. A fund of \$2,500.00 was also sent from different parties in the state. The following winter, coal was brought in without freight charges by the C. & N.W. Railroad and sold from \$1.00 to \$1.60 per ton to the unfortunate fire sufferers.

Approximately 25 sections of land were blackened and burned west and northwest of Onida by three range fires on the afternoon of August 1, 1947, the largest of which was 13 miles long. Starting in mid-afternoon, just as the Sully County Fair was getting underway, the call for fire-fighters soon emptied the grandstand, calling a halt to the afternoon's events. Almost super-human work on the part of fire-fighters prevented the destruction of buildings at several places. At the Orville Fairbank farm, 17,000 bushels of wheat narrowly escaped burning when the flames were stopped within nine feet of the granaries. The Meade Barber farm buildings were at one time surrounded, but were saved by valiant fire fighting and a similar report came in from the Fred Weischedel farm. Firemen from Pierre and Gettysburg arrived with equipment to help fight the blaze.

East Sully County farmers took stock of losses sustained in the disastrous fire which swept over the east portions of Pleasant, Norfolk and Cora townships over the week end of September 5, 1947. Entering the county in the southern part of Pleasant Township, the fire penetrated some three or four miles west to destroy

hundreds of tons of hay, fence and pasture land. No Sully County homes were burned.

In direct path of the fire and hardest hit in loss of feed were the Collens Wakefield, Walter Fanger, Emory Hinkle, William Bright, Howard Brown and E. E. Money farms. Lesser losses were sustained by H. P. Hansen, August Rupkalvis, Paul Duncan and Alvin Thomas. With characteristic South Dakota fortitude, these Sully County people took inventory of resources left and planned ways and means by which to save the major portions of their herds of livestock.

Miles and miles of barbed wire lying idle on the ground had to be restored to use in order to keep cattle, horses and sheep from straying far afield in search of food. The Red Cross was asked to furnish steel fence posts to farmers in Hyde, Sully, Potter, Faulk and Hughes counties. Over 500 square miles, 320,000 acres of scorched earth in five counties, confronted farmers and ranchers as they surveyed their losses and attempted to make plans for the future.

The fire, described as the worst disaster to hit Central South Dakota since the drought of the thirties, swept over the huge area, greedily licking up feed, fences and buildings, and leaving in its wake a scorched and blackened countryside. No human lives were reported lost, but estimates on property losses mounted as reports came in, finally reaching the staggering total of \$2,000,000.00.

A spark from a combine set the fire that started north of Harrold about 10:30, the morning of September 5. A cigarette, carelessly tossed from an automobile was blamed for the starting of the fire a mile east of Highmore on the William McDonald farm north of the highway. Fanned by a strong wind and fed by heavy, dry-astinder grass, the fires swept north to meet a third blaze which had started near Seneca, in western Faulk County. It was estimated that the money loss alone in burned fence posts was somewhere in the neighborhood of a half million dollars.

The red glow of the fire reflected in the eastern sky, spreading for miles along the county line, was an awesome spectacle as viewed from Onida. Gazing into the sky, one might have been convinced

that the Day of Doom had come and that a righteous God was visiting retribution upon a sin-stricken world. Families who passed through the terror and horror of that fiery night will never forget the choking panic that seized them when they saw their homes and possessions threatened.

Fire again hit eastern Sully County Saturday afternoon and again Sunday morning, September 13 and 14, when flames thought to have started from smoldering residue of the fire the week before, burned over land near the George Lytle farm and the Emory Hinkle place. Fire departments from Onida, Harrold and Gettysburg aided by about 100 farmers, brought the Saturday fire under control, but not before it had burned over 12 square miles of range, 15 miles east of Onida. The fire Sunday morning destroyed most of the remaining feed at the Hinkle farm, already hit by the fire the preceding week.

Lightening, which struck during a thunder shower the first part of August, 1951, set fire to the large barn on the John G. Hofer farm, destroying the barn and damaging over 6,000 bushels of oats and 2,500 of rye, of his crop that year. Much equipment, including a cream separator, grain elevator and a new \$500 motor was destroyed, as well as tools and many other articles. Five minutes before the lightening struck, Mr. Hofer and sons had finished storing the grain, and the trucks in which it was hauled from the field were left standing in front of the barn while the men went in to eat dinner. When the bolt struck, fuses were burned out in the farm house, and it was not until several minutes later that smoke was seen pouring from the barn. The trucks were hurriedly removed from the danger zone and calls for help phoned into the Onida and Harrold Fire Departments, who arrived promptly with rural fire fighting equipment, but too late to save the building. Mr. Hofer estimated the loss at about \$25,000.00.



Tornadoes

"The worst windstorm since this country was settled," was the way the storm of June 19, 1924, was characterized. In violence, duration and extent of area involved, this wind was really unique.

The ordinary tornado touches with

diabolical fury and power in a single spot, and its destruction is over in half a minute. However, this wind bore down from straight north and did not abate for more than twenty minutes.

The cloud was forming in view most of the afternoon and by 5:30 an even bank of green extended from the southwest to the northeast throughout the entire cloud—a sure indication that a storm of unusual intensity was preparing.

And then it struck—wind and water together. Light garages and outbuildings in Onida began to move. Boards, roofing paper and sections of roofs leaped up and were hurled against adjacent buildings or scattered for rods. Chimneys went crashing. The rain drove horizontally in sheets that suggested the fiercest of our prairie blizzards.

Destruction by the wind was most general in a strip reaching from Little Bend through Fairbank to Laurel, about 20 miles in width, and crossing the county in a southeasterly direction.

The maximum velocity of the wind was reported at 82 miles.

The damage was so extensive throughout the county that it would take pages to relate the entire story. However, records show that Okobojo was hit exceptionally hard with several cases of human suffering. The prosperous group of oldtimers in the Shiloh neighborhood were also heavy losers. It was in that area (Hughes County) that the only death occurred. Paul Nelson was alone on his father's farm. His body was found the next day among the scattered debris of the barn, with the skull so crushed that death must have been instantaneous.

It was about seven o'clock July 19, 1934, when ominous looking clouds swiftly moved up from the west and threatened wind and rain. A sandstorm of considerable force swept over the area north of Onida. At the Jacob S. G. Hofer place the dirt storm apparently hid from their view the oncoming cyclonic cloud, for immediately after the dirt storm it seemed as though a veritable hell had been turned loose. Trees crashed all around, limbs were torn from those left standing, barn roofs were lifted into the air and fell helter-skelter over the entire place. This cyclonic manifestation lasted for about ten minutes. Suddenly a deathlike stillness prevailed and then a rain, hail and wind

storm twister set in with demonlike savagery. Buildings crashed everywhere. The large and well-built home trembled to its very firm foundation. Windows were blown in and the God-fearing man of the house admonished his family to prepare to meet their God. It appeared to him that Judgment Day must be at hand.

All this time the entire farmyard seemed wrapped in total darkness and was also enveloped in a mass of water and hail.

At last daylight broke again. Mr. Hofer rushed out of the house and stepped into icy masses of rushing water and hail half-way to his knees. Swirling, gurgling streams were rushing hither and yon, bearing with them masses of debris and timber from crashed buildings. Mr. Hofer's thoughts were with a horse tied in the barn, which he found alive.

Little could be done that night. The family slept restlessly on pillows of worry and care, every thought full of gratitude that they and the home had been saved.

The sun rose again next morning in full glory and it was then that the tragedy was fully revealed. A shed, sixteen feet wide surrounding a barn 30x50 feet, had been reduced to kindling and the barn twisted off its foundation and collapsed. A shed fourteen feet wide by the 20x24 granary, was no more. A chicken house, 8x24, housed some 200 young chickens, all of which had been killed and their bodies scattered over the place. The building was nowhere to be seen. A sim-

ilar building housing another 100 chickens was not destroyed. A granary, 12x18, containing the last of the family bread supply in the form of fifty bushels of good wheat, was hurled ten to fifteen rods and the wheat scattered to the winds.

A forty foot windmill was bent to the earth, its supports having yielded like straw. A large bin containing several hundred bushels of ground feed was demolished and hurled against the heavy concrete top of the cistern, which was thus torn away and a calf was dumped into the depths, where he was found the next morning, unhurt, but calling pitifully for rescue from the several inches of water.

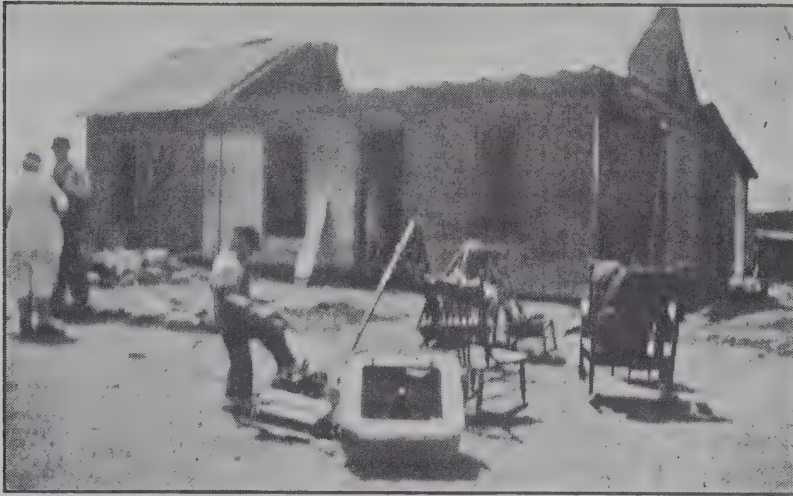
The north wall of the house was pushed in several inches; and every leaf was torn from the trees, making the lovely grove a sorry spectacle. Even weeds were bereft of their foliage.

The handiwork of Jacob G. Hofer and his family was a total ruin, except the house. The storm undid in a few minutes what they had built up in fifteen years.

Another destructive tornado occurred in the afternoon of June 15, 1935, just eleven years after the windstorm of 1924. This windstorm formed in Hughes County and traveled to the northeast, sweeping a path about a mile wide. The destruction was thorough and complete, wrecking the entire farm home of the S. C. Warne family, scattering machinery and equipment for three miles, and wrecking the large barn and other buildings on the O. D. Warne farm, killing and maiming seventy-



Tornado Approaching S. C. Warne Farm, June 15, 1935



Wreckage at S. C. Warne Home After Tornado, June 15, 1935

five head of cattle belonging to the Warne family. The path of destruction ended a few miles in Goodwater Township, where it wrecked the home and machinery of the Henry Heuer family.

Freakish scenes were apparent, as is customary with such storms. A straw was driven into a fence post; an old fashioned tin type photo had been torn from its frame and driven about three-quarters of an inch into a piece of stove wood lying in the yard; chickens and turkeys were taken considerable distances and portions of their bodies were found several hundred feet from the farmyard; a heavy 15-30 tractor was lifted and dropped again about five hundred feet from its original resting place with its wheels and other parts smashed. Strangest of all, and almost unbelievable was the finding of the tongue of one of the injured cows almost a mile from where the injured stock was piled.

One schoolhouse, located in Iowa Township, was also in the path of the storm and was destroyed.

A storm of cyclonic proportions swept over the west end of Sully county on Sunday evening, June 13, 1943, leaving in its wake many wrecked farm buildings and heavy loss of livestock and poultry. The wind was accompanied by torrential rains and in some places hail added to the fury of the elements.

The home and other buildings on the Clarence Smith farm near Fielder were completely demolished. Hearing the roar of the approaching storm, the Smith fam-

ily took refuge in a cave in the yard and were thus uninjured when the blast struck. At the Wm. Floyd farm, 11 buildings were damaged or destroyed, including two big barns. At the Tom Garrett farm the big barn was blown down and the house twisted on the foundation. The Pitlick Schoolhouse had the roof neatly removed, and at the Paul Pitlick farm the barn and several smaller buildings were destroyed.

At the farm home of Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Hughes excitement prevailed at the height of the storm, and the Hughes family felt lucky in escaping serious injury when their house was moved from its mooring. This building had been moved from Onida and was to be placed on its permanent foundation, but was still resting on moving timbers. When the storm had abated the Hughes family found their home battered and moved from the blocks a distance of about 20 feet.

The small house owned by Miss Marie Ripley, used as a home during the school year, but luckily vacant at the time, was reported to have rolled over at least five times. Threshing machines on the Frank Fagner, Wm. Serbousek and Wm. Weischedel farms were overturned and damaged. At the Zebroski, Leonard Serbousek, Newcomb, Jensen and Wm. Serbousek farms much damage to barns and smaller buildings was reported, and the loss of poultry was also great. Every windmill in the path of the storm was blown down. Damage of varying degrees was also reported at the James Sutton, Henry Groseclose, Art Baumberger, Bill Becker, Wil-



Group of Early Sully County Officers. Seated, left to right — Tom Crawford, M. J. Haverly, Henry Esselbrugge, George Schreiber, Francis Barber, William Eckert and Walter Spencer. Standing — J. H. Gropengieser, J. N. Garner, R. J. Courtney and M. L. French.

bur Stampe and John W. Bush farms.

Whether it was a tornado, cyclone, or just a "big blow," damage was extensive at the Charles Roddewig farm the night of July 25, 1954.

A four-year-old hog house was completely flattened and torn apart, with only the floor remaining in place. Oddly, some of the electric light fixtures, with bulbs intact, took the flight with the roof undamaged. Half of the roof was blown off the granary, and the big barn was moved a few inches on its foundation. Hail also accompanied the storm and did extensive damage to crops.



GOVERNMENT

Sully County officials appointed in 1883 were B. P. Hoover, chairman; G. J. Millett, Sr., and N. H. Young, commissioners; G. J. Millett, Jr., sheriff; Charles H. Agar, treasurer; Dr. A. J. Stevens, coroner; William Ashley Jones, surveyor; Orr W. Lee, assessor; H. W. Edgerton, clerk of courts; Merit Sweny, judge of probate; David Staples, superintendent of schools; J. A. Meloon, register of deeds; William P. Ross, G. W. Everts, P. T. Keily and D. D. Bryant, justices of the peace, and H.

W. Sprague, George Bowers and G. H. Pease, constables.

State Senators

John E. Lawrence, 1893-96; C. J. Crandall, 1925-28; Ed Sutton, 1933-34, and Lee Warne, 1953-56.

State Representatives

W. H. Little (territorial), 1888-1890; David Hall, 1891-92; T. M. Goddard, 1897-1904; J. H. Gropengieser, 1905-08; William Floyd, 1909-12; R. J. Courtney, 1913-



Sully County Courthouse

Sully County Commissioners, 1911. Left to right — Henry Esselbrugge, E. F. Fanton, Charles Johnson, Tom Crawford and William Eckert, with County Auditor J. I. O'Donnell.



16; J. E. Temmey (died in office), 1917-18; B. M. Lister, 1919-20; W. H. Green, 1921-22; E. H. Garrett, 1923-26; Charles E. Byrum, 1927-32; M. A. Hyde, 1933-34; R. S. Goddard, 1935-38; Luther Nelson, 1943-46; L. A. Fosness, 1951-54, and Lee Warne, 1957 to date.

County Auditors

M. L. French, 1884-92; John N. Garner, 1893-96; M. L. French, 1897-1900; G. Frank Walker, 1901-02; M. Leon French, 1903-06; F. S. Barber, 1907-10; J. I. O'Donnell, 1911-14; Charles L. Glessner, 1915-18; John R. Mason, 1919, (resigned), Charles L. Glessner, 1919-24; M. M. Gless-

ner, 1925-28; Charles L. Glessner, 1929-32; W. W. Warriner, 1933-36; Sarah E. Warriner, 1937-40; James P. Cavanaugh, 1941-44; Janet Chamberlain, 1945-48; Ardis L. Gatons, 1949-52; Edward Klix, 1953-56, and Harriet Klix, 1957 to date.

County Treasurers

Charles H. Agar, appointed 1883-84; William Toomey, 1885-90; William J. Johnson, 1891-94; Hakan Persson, 1895-98; William Floyd, 1899-1900; Benjamin Nelson, 1901-04; B. M. Lister, 1905-08; R. J. Courtney, 1909-12; Patrick Walsh, 1913-14; J. F. Cole, 1915-18; Aaron Robinson, 1919-22; Zoa Robinson, 1923-26; Will



Sully County Officials, 1921. Front row, left to right—Aaron Robinson, J. N. Garner, M. M. Smith, Zoa Robinson, Carl Gould and Mrs. Gould. Middle row — Frank Getzelman, Alex Brehe, Myrtle Glessner, Eva Phares, Clara Peterson, Fern Spencer, Ellen Pierce and Clinton J. Crandall. Back row — C. L. Glessner, C. F. Barber, C. C. Lyons, Tom Crawford and P. H. Peterson.



Sully County Officials, 1938. Front row, left to right — P. H. Peterson, John P. Bush, W. B. Spears, Jacob Mosiman and Alex Brehe. Middle row — Mason Youngberg, Sarah E. Warriner, Francis M. Ryan and Ruth Nystrom. Back row — F. W. Johnson, William Buol, Ruth Hoover, J. P. Williamson and J. M. Reedy.

Spencer, 1927-28; William Crawford, 1929-32; Sarah E. Warriner, 1933-36; Mason Youngberg, 1937-40; J. M. Blaine, 1941-44; Henrietta Ruckle, 1945-46; Janet Chamberlain, 1947-50; Ardis Gatons, 1951-54; Janet Chamberlain, 1955 to date.

Clerk of Courts

H. W. Edgerton (appointed) 1883; C. W. Hawes and J. H. Gropengieser followed through 1892; H. D. Enoe, 1893-94; R. N. Porter, 1895-98; C. W. Holmes, 1899-1908; J. N. Garner, 1909-22; R. J. Courtney (died while in office), 1923-30; Adele M. Nelson, 1930-32; Novella M. Franklin, 1933-36; Jesse P. Williamson, 1937-40, and Bessie B. Lumley, 1941 to date.

Register of Deeds

Joseph A. Meloon (appointed) 1883-86; Danforth Q. Jordan, 1887-92; L. E. Snyder, 1893-96; A. A. Snow, 1897-1900; Edwin E. Brooking, 1901-04; Frank W. Johnson, 1905-08; Walter H. Spencer, 1909-12; C. F. Barber, 1913-16; Ernest E. Brooking, 1917-20; C. F. Barber, 1921-24; M. R. Keck, 1925-28; Harry McGuire 1929-32; James Nystrom, 1933-36; Ruth Nystrom, 1937-38; Grace Frahm, 1939-42; Edna Grace Miller, 1943 to July 1, 1944; Ardis Gatons, 1944-48; A. N. Kass, 1949-

50; Irene Chenoweth, 1951-52; Janet Chamberlain, 1953-56, and Arlene Thompson, 1957 to date.

State's Attorneys

Samuel H. Neal, part of 1887; Thomas M. Goddard, 1887-88; W. N. Meloon, 1893-96; A. C. Byrum, part of 1897; H. G. Pease, 1897-1900; J. H. Gropengieser, 1901-1904; A. C. Byrum, 1905-08; J. H. Gropengieser, 1909-1910; M. H. Quimby, 1911-14; J. H. Gropengieser, 1915-18; F. J. Eager, 1919-20; C. J. Crandall, 1921-24; M. H. Quimby, 1925-28; F. J. Eager, 1929-30; M. H. Quimby, 1931-34; Francis Ryan, 1935, declared ineligible, so Quimby held over; Francis Ryan, 1937-40; M. H. Quimby, 1941-44; Francis Ryan, 1945-48; Charles D. Nelson, 1949-50, and Francis Ryan, 1951 to date.

County Judges

Merit Sweny, 1883-84; Michael J. McCann, 1885-86; J. H. Gropengieser, 1887-90; T. M. Goddard, 1891-92; F. A. Duffield, 1893-96; A. N. McFall, 1897-1900; A. C. Byrum, 1901-04; A. M. McFall, 1905-10; A. C. Byrum, 1911-12; James E. Temmey, 1913-14; J. H. Gropengieser, 1915-16; M. H. Quimby, 1917-24; J. H. Gropengieser, 1925-26; M. H. Quimby, 1937-40;

Francis Ryan, 1941-44, and M. H. Quimby, 1945 to date.

County Sheriffs

George J. Millett, Jr., (appointed) 1883-84; L. H. Bruner, 1885-88; A. A. Faust, 1889-90; D. M. Smith, 1891-94; Alvin Erb, 1895-98; R. Clark, 1899-1902; L. S. Howard, 1903-06; Carl Falkenhagen, 1915-18; Charles Phares, 1919-22; Charles B. Knox, 1923-26; T. D. Sutton, 1927-30; Henry Chamberlain, 1931-34; J. M. Reedy, 1935-38; Luther M. Miller, 1939-42; William Jordan, 1943-54, and J. M. Reedy, 1955 to date.

County Assessors of Unorganized Townships

Orr W. Lee, 1883-84; J. O. McDonald and Frank Lillibridge, 1885-92; Hakan Persson, 1893-94; F. E. Blackmore, 1895-96; M. F. Howard, 1897-1900; J. R. Groseclose, 1901-02; William J. Johnston (died while in office) 1903 and part of 1904; George Fisher, 1904-06; H. P. Evert, 1907-10; J. R. Groseclose, 1911-14; John Gerlack, 1915-16; William Gerlack, 1917-20; Al Sheffer, 1921-22; William B. Crawford, 1923-28; W. F. Pulliam, 1929-32; J. A. Chapman, 1933-34; W. H. Parkin, 1935-38; F. W. Jordan, 1939-42; W. H. Parkin, 1943-45; Harley Lemon, 1946, after which year the unorganized township assessors were appointed by the county commissioners, rather than elected. Jake Mosiman was appointed in 1947 and held office through 1954, after which J. R. Doyle took over in 1955 and holds that office to date.

County Surveyors

William Ashley Jones, during the pioneer days; Marcus L. French, for many years, and M. M. Smith, in later years.

County Commissioners

The present county commissioners include Art Wittler, chairman, 1952; R. S. Goddard, 1939; Ray Vader, 1948; Roy Beckett, 1950, and Ed Cruthoff, 1956.

Courthouse Employees

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Klix have been faithful and conscientious employees in the auditor's office since 1953, and have done an outstanding job in keeping the records in that office.

Edward Klix came to Sully County on January 1, 1924, after graduating from Summit High School and then serving his country during World War I, and taught school for two terms in Clifton Township.

On Decoration Day, 1925, Edward and Harriet Rawlins, of Henry, South Dakota, were united in marriage, and have resided in Sully County since that time.

He taught school in Cora Township for two years and then moved to Blaine Township and taught there for three years. In 1930, they moved to Onida where he taught the seventh and eighth grade for a number of years. He was then employed by O. C. Hortman for about fifteen years and then went back to teaching at the Ruckle School, the Buffalo and again at Blaine.

Mr. and Mrs. Klix have three daughters: LaVon, now Mrs. R. E. Groom, who owns and operates a beauty shop in St. Paul, Minnesota; Donna, who is employed by Skelly Oil Company in St. Paul, and Carolyn, a sophomore in Onida High School.

Thirty-five years of almost continuous residents, makes the Klix's old-timers in Sully County.



Mrs. Janet Chamberlain, the present county treasurer, has served Sully County ably and efficiently since she took office in 1945 as county auditor.

Janet came to Onida with her parents in the late fall of 1912, from Hayes, South Dakota, where the family had been living on a claim, having moved there from Assumption, Illinois, where Janet was born. The family located on a farm four miles west of Onida, where the Frank F. Sacks now live.

Janet was married to Luther D. Chamberlain, establishing their own home in Clifton Township, where their daughter, LaVonne was born.

After Mr. Chamberlain's death in 1942, she and LaVonne moved to Onida. They first lived in the house now occupied by the Kenneth Miles family, then moved to an apartment in the Dr. Hedman home and in 1956, built their own home in Onida.



J. M. Reedy has served faithfully and efficiently as sheriff of Sully County since he took office in 1955.

Jack, as he is known by all, came to Onida in July, 1923. He was employed by Chamberlain, Cole and Haverly in the Ford Garage as salesman until the fall of 1925, when the business was sold. He then

worked for Greeves and Renshaw and then Dave Gustafson until the spring of 1929, when he took over the City Garage, owned by Harry McGuire and was in the car business until 1935.

In 1930, he was married to Betty Kirsch. Twin daughters were born to them; Jeannine, now Mrs. Hittle, and Jacqueline, now Mrs. Bob Marso.

Jack was elected as sheriff of Sully County in 1934, and took office on January 1, 1935, serving two terms. He then purchased the Brabec Cafe and operated that business, under the name of Betty and Jacks Inn, until the fall of 1945. The following spring, he opened the Standard Filling Station and took over the J. I. Case contract until 1954, when he was elected sheriff.

Mr. Reedy served twenty-five years on the Onida Fire Department, being fire chief for six of those years; served twenty years on the Fair Board, president of that organization for ten years; served on the City council for eight years, and was mayor of Onida for two terms, 1950-53. Thus, besides serving Sully County as its sheriff, Jack Reedy has also faithfully served the City of Onida since his arrival here in the early twenties.

☆ ☆ ☆

History of Mrs. Bessie B. Lumley, clerk of courts, is in the story of Onida's Diamond Jubilee Queen.

☆ ☆ ☆

Mrs. Arlene Thompson took office January 2, 1957, as register of deeds. Her deputies have been Mrs. Irene Chenoweth and Mrs. Donna Ripley. Mrs. Thompson has one daughter, Jean, a grade school student.

☆ ☆ ☆

Harold Wood came to Onida in December, 1955, from Colome, South Dakota, and took over as Sully County Agent at that time. Mrs. Maynard Rilling is employed in his office.

Mr. and Mrs. Wood have four children, Eugenie, Mary Ann, Kathy Jo and Brad.

☆ ☆ ☆

Miss Mildred Tisher, as Sully County's Home Extension Agent, started her work here on July 1, 1950. She taught Homemaking in the Pierre High School for nine years, prior to going into Extension work.

Glenn Hughes is office manager of the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Association. He took over the office on October 1, 1953, and prior to that time was chairman of the county committee. Mr. Hughes is a native of Sully County and has been employed as a county official since 1937.

Employees in the A.S.C. office include Miss LaVonne Chamberlain, Mrs. Ellen Tunnell, Mrs. Lorraine Miller, Mrs. Elizabeth Rappana, Parker Knox, Dennis LaFave, Charles Hines and Wilbur Beebe.

☆ ☆ ☆

William C. Buol completed his eleventh term, of twenty-two years, at the close of 1958, having been elected to the office of superintendent of schools in 1937.

Mr. Buol was born and raised in Sully County, his mother having arrived in the county when she was two years old. So it can be said that William is a true product of Sully County.

He started his teaching career in 1929, at the Lewellyn Park school. He was married the following year to Hazel Crum, of Philip, South Dakota. He then taught schools in Blaine, West Cora, Clifton and Summit townships.

Mr. and Mrs. Buol have three children, William Lee, Patricia, now Mrs. James Zebroski, and Buell (Sam).

☆ ☆ ☆

Francis Ryan, states attorney, has his office in the courthouse. However, a history of him and his family is found under "Lawyers".

☆ ☆ ☆

J. R. Doyle took office as Director of Assessments in October, 1955, and for the first time since assessors were elected, and then appointed, it has been the duty of Doyle to assess the entire county, rather than have numerous assessors throughout the county take care of this work, as was done in the past. Barbara Winkler has assisted Assessor Doyle in his office.

Mr. and Mrs. Doyle have two daughters, Constance, a sophomore in Onida High School, and Vicki Rae, a grade school student. Mr. Doyle came here from Danberry, Iowa, in 1916.

GRAIN STORAGE AND ELEVATORS

The contract for the erection of a grain elevator, of 30,000 bushel capacity, in Onida was let by the Atlas Elevator Company in August, 1909. Citizens of Onida and vicinity donated the hauling of forty loads of lumber which was used in the erection.

In March, 1921, the Co-Operative Elevator Company was organized, and the officers for the first year were F. W. Johnson, W. H. Durrstein, Al Shires, Van Ludwig, Frank Fagner, John J. Hofer and Harry Huffman.

The newly organized Farmers Co-Operative Company purchased the elevator and good will of the Onida Grain and Stock Company in June of that year. The new company obtained the finest grain house in the county. A Mr. Foster, of Doland, South Dakota, was hired to manage the elevator.

As of August, 1942, the local AAA had a total of 36 bins. Glen Hughes, chairman, reported that there were eight bins erected in Onida and five in Agar, as well as 13 sold and delivered to farmers in the

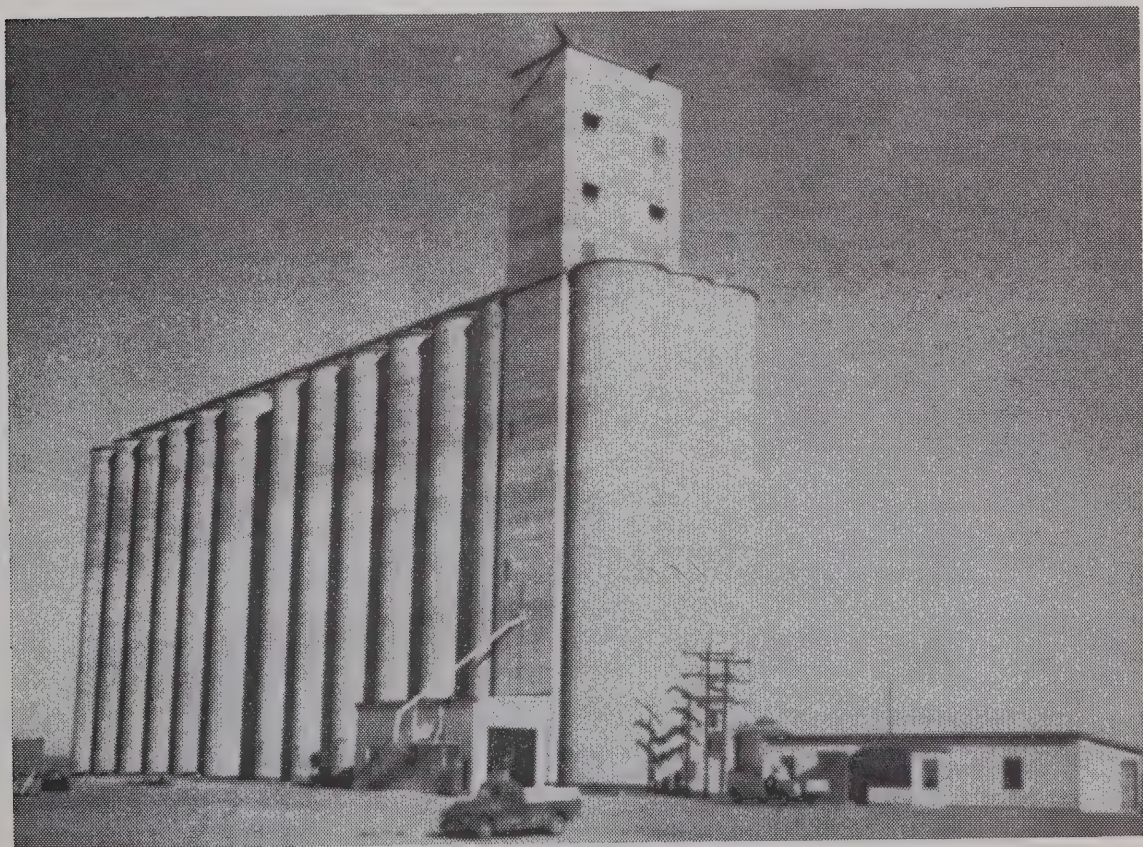
territory. Local farmers took immediate advantage of the bins and hauled their 1941 grain into Onida and Agar.

In 1954, about one million bushels of grain storage was added to that which the Commodity Credit Corporation already had in the County.

Determination on the part of a handful of local men to provide additional storage and marketing facilities for small grain raised in this area was culminated with the completion of a half-million bushel steel and concrete elevator by the Oahe Grain Corporation of Onida. The grand opening and public inspection of the giant \$300,000 structure was held on March 30, 1955.

Directors of the corporation include Gordon Day, Wilber Day, John E. Sutton and Josh J. Hofer, of Onida, and Ralph Wagner, of Agar. The corporation is a local-owned concern, with Gordon Day as president, comprising 38 stockholders.

In 1958, the capacity of the elevator was nearly doubled with the addition of 12 new tubes, making it near a million bushel capacity structure.



Oahe Grain Elevator, Onida, 1958.

Soil Bank Signup

As of July 20, 1956, 47,469 acres had been placed in the acreage reserve program of the 1956 Soil Bank. The indicated return from this acreage was approximately \$321,442.35, with 581 agreements signed in Sully County, all of which were in wheat.

Sully's Biggest Grain Farmer

The small grain harvest in Sully County was completed when W. J. Asmussen, of Agar, completed combining operations on August 19, 1958. This was not an indication that he was slow — he just had a lot of harvesting to do.

Carl Rieger, custom combiner from Belleville, Kansas, one of the largest operators in the business, with an even dozen machines and as many trucks, completed Asmussen's mammoth harvest. Rieger combined over 6,400 acres, 10 sections, consisting of wheat, rye and oats, for the big Sully County operator. It took about three weeks to complete the job with ideal harvesting weather.

SULLY LAKE

The formal opening of Sully Lake, situated in a beautiful valley six miles west of Onida, took place on June 17, 1927, with an estimated crowd of two thousand people. The ceremonies opened with Dr. B. M. Hart, president of the Sully Lake Association, introducing Mayor Hipple, of Pierre, who delivered the dedication address.

The Onida band played several selections, after which boat races took place. "Miss Sully", the first motor craft to make its appearance on the waters of Sully Lake, piloted by Henry Chamberlan, was kept busy all that day with over three hundred people taking rides around the lake. Several new canoes and launches also made their appearance.

Forty-one lots were sold that day, averaging about \$50.00 each. The lots were situated along the west bank of the lake.

Two thousand catfish, averaging about a foot long, were placed in the lake that evening.

The committee in charge of the dance pavilion announced that the official name chosen for the pavilion was "Okarda", suggested by Mrs. Frank Frahm, of Onida. The name was very appropriate, as it represented the three principal towns in Sully County — Okobojo, Agar and Onida.



Orville Fairbank and Emma Brasel, shortly before they were married, displaying their 94 fish caught in Lake Sully, 1948.

The generous rains in the spring of 1937, did much to bring the oldest and most popular artificial lake in central South Dakota back to its former fame and glory. The water rushed over the spillway and on down toward the big muddy Missouri.

Young and old from all over Sully County flocked to the cooling shores to enjoy a refreshing dip in the soft rain wa-



Celebration at Lake Sully, 1927

ters of the lake. Schools of tiny fish were carried across the outlet and down into Okobojo Creek.

During the years that the water gradually receded under the merciless evaporating forces of the sun and hot winds, Bess Gropengieser moved her boat landing pier farther and farther toward the center of the lake, but after the heavy rains she was able to step right into her boat off the former shore.

The cottage owners, adjoining the lake, kept right on through the drought planting and taking care of shade trees around their property. The Gropengieser cozy lake retreat was almost hidden in shady trees and brush.

Improvements were made on the bath house, the pier recarpeted, a new spring board put into position, and at the end of the pier, a fifteen foot, three-floor life guard tower put in place, two life-saving rings with ample rope were provided for the safety of swimmers and two floating rafts were also provided.

Members of the Sully County Sportsmen Club, along with the cooperation of the Onida Fire Department and county and city employees took advantage of the low water level of the lake in March, 1957, and sanded the beach, cleaned up debris and trimmed the trees, making swimming activities at the lake more desirable.



ORGANIZATIONS

Crop and Livestock Improvement Association

About sixty farmers met in Onida on January 4, 1947, and organized a joint crop and livestock improvement association. The directors were Henry Hertel, James Brooking, Gordon Day, John Sutton, Vernon Garrett, John Nystrom and Garrett Reynolds.

The spraying program, under the direction of County Agent John F. Neu, sprayed 4,229 head of cattle on 25 different farms that spring. The sprayer was kept busy as over 10,000 head of cattle were signed up for lice and grub spraying, and later that season the sprayer was in control of noxious weeds and fly control on livestock.

The association sponsored a Crop Show in Onida in 1948. A Pie Baking Contest was held in connection with the show and Mrs. Edward Klix was crowned "Pie Queen" as the result of her lemon pie be-

ing judged best of the 24 entered. Mrs. George Becker was runner-up, and Mrs. Theron McKenney received the highest number of points. The pies were then auctioned off. Mrs. Klix's champion pie was sold to Everett Stewart for \$21.00.



Extension Service

The Agricultural Extension Service was established in Sully County in 1918, and the work has been maintained and continually improved since that time. From 1920 to 1934, the Sully County Farm Bureau was the official organization cooperating with the Extension Service, but this arrangement was changed in 1935, in compliance with the new South Dakota Extension law. In accordance with the new law, Sully County commissioners are responsible for maintaining the service in cooperation with the state and national extension organizations.

Educational and social projects have been maintained throughout the years. The Sully County Fair is closely associated with the Service which also assists in organizing State Fair exhibits. The program is carried out by the County Extension Board, 4-H Clubs, Fair Board, Home Extension Council and the Crop Improvement Association. Annual county fairs have been held throughout the years and the farm youth has continued to participate in 4-H projects.

Mother Nature has often smiled upon the farms of Sully County and brought bountiful crops for the farmers to harvest; however we have not always been able to escape the climatic hazards of the area.

During 1940, moisture conditions were varied and spotted, and the hot winds during the month of June practically destroyed the grain crop, and in many cases no harvest was made. The estimated yield for wheat that year was 7.2 bushels per acre. Federal Agency programs were carried out and monies from the AAA, FSA and WPA were given credit for "pulling us through." This area had just emerged from a period of depression, drought, dust storms and grasshoppers, and these agencies were used to supplement the income of the farmer.

The United States and the people of Sully County were involved in World War II and the Korean Conflict during this period of time, and the agriculture effort of



C. L. Falkenhagen, Agar, Exhibit at State Fair, 1921.

1942 through 1945 was concentrated on producing food and fiber for the armies of the United States and its allies. World War II caused boards and agencies to be organized by which the war effort could be carried out. Among them were the U.S.D.A. War Board, Rationing Committees, Office of Civilian Defense, Bond Drive Committees and office of Price Administration. Scrap drives were organized, and farmer committees were set up on rationing and price regulations.

Sons and daughters of Sully County farmers were placed in military service and factories. Those left on the farms were determined to get the job done despite the labor shortage and the inability to buy farm machinery.

In 1942, the county was blessed with a bountiful crop of wheat which averaged 20 bushels per acre. Some yields were as high as 40 bushels per acre. The wet season delayed threshing and some were still threshing as late as November.

Crops were poor to fair in 1943. However grass grew well as several good rains fell during May and June and an ample supply of hay and forage was harvested. The old hazard of grasshoppers reappeared and inflicted severe damage in some parts of the county. One-hundred-

thirty tons of bait were spread for hopper control that year.

The war effort continued and ration boards become common place. Ration books were issued with blue and red stamps. The blue stamps were used for rationing processed foods and red stamps were used for meat rationing.

Ration coupons become valid on specific dates for a definite period of time. Some of the important items rationed were coffee, sugar, gasoline, tires and fuel oil.

The county extension office assisted in placing harvesting equipment and farm laborers needed to carry out farming operations. We became a part of the Farm Labor Office of the U.S.D.A. War Board.

Sully County received timely rains and favorable conditions for good crops during most of the period from 1944 to 1958.

Some of the greater changes noted in farming methods during the 1939-1959 period were most evident in harvesting equipment.

The grain binder and threshing machine were being replaced by the combine at the opening of this period. The combine thresher progressed from an awk-

ward pull type machine to a more compact unit and then on to the self-propelled unit. Rubber tired farm implements replaced the steel wheel. Scientific research has played a great role in the agriculture progress of the county with new insecticides, weed killing sprays, fungicides and drugs found in common usage. Sully County farmers have always been progressive and willing to adopt new ideas.

Improved crop varieties such as Rival and Rushmore wheat, which were drouth and rust resistant, influenced crop production a great deal. Grain sorghums, hybrid corn and improved grasses were planted extensively. Large acreages of grasses and legumes were seeded under A.S.C. cost sharing programs.

The widespread planting of trees was carried out, with a hardy variety, Chinese Elm, as the main species. Another agricultural program of great economic importance was the building of stock water reservoirs and dug-outs which made available a livestock water supply during dry periods.

During this period better production methods, coupled with bountiful crops and higher prices, helped to raise the standard of living of the Sully County farm family. Electric power from the R.E.A. made it possible to develop water and sewer systems on the farm. Electric lights replaced the kerosene and gas lamps and the occasional windchargers. Recently modern telephone lines replaced the older and shorter lines and gave complete coverage to the county.

Television became common place in most farm homes. The farm size continued to increase throughout this period and production shifts were made away from dairy and poultry products toward beef cattle and cash grain sales for income.

The first county agricultural agent was Axel L. Peterson, who was employed 1918 to 1919. Next in line was Lewis M. Woodruff in 1920 through 1925. U. J. Norgaard took over in 1926 and continued until the spring of 1939, at which time John Jeremiason became agent. He worked in that capacity through 1944. Sully County did not have a county agent in 1945, but the following year, John F. Neu took over the duties and remained here for ten years. Then Harold E. Wood became county agent in 1956, and to date,

under his close supervision, extension activities have climbed to the highest level and more progress made than at any time since Extension Service was organized.

Home agents, who have served in Sully County, are Margaret Conklin, Hermina Nauman, Anna Dempster, Irene Stening-er, Emily Parker, Ora Sloat, Artaxa Deniston, who came here in 1940; Vivian Verry 1941 and 42; Margaret Volby in 1943; May T. Wren in 1944 and 45; Isabel McGibney, 1946 and 47, Margaret Laughrey, 1948 and 49, and Mildred Tisher in 1950 to date.

The present extension board includes Mrs. G. C. Reynolds, chairman; Emel Johnson, vice chairman; Ed Cruthoff, secretary; James Brooking and James Cavanaugh, members. — H. W.



Extension Clubs

The Extension organization in Sully County began in 1922, and at the present time there are ten active clubs in the county.

The major project of each club is their individual booth at the County Fair, featuring special lessons presented throughout the year. All clubs sponsor 4-H clubs in the county.

The County Council was originally called County Committee, then changed to Advisory Council and is now County Council which meets once a month. The 1958 officers are Mrs. John Day, chairman; Mrs. Robert Mikkelsen, vice chairman, and Mrs. Fred Smith, secretary and treasurer.

Farm Women's Club was organized in 1922, with members residing in Onida, Garner, Clifton and Hartford townships. The club helped organize the State Federation in 1929, and from that time to 1933, Mrs. H. A. Brooking, a member of the club, was state treasurer and also state president in 1935. Farm Women's won the regional one-act play contest in 1936, and presented it during Farm and Home Week in Brookings. Mrs. George Becker, another member, was honored as first "Homemaker" at Little International in Brookings in 1949. She was also state president in 1950. This is the only club in the state that has ever had two state presidents. Three "Fine Ladies" were chosen from this club — Mrs. H. A. Brooking, Mrs.

George Becker and Mrs. Theron McKenney.

Farmington Club was organized in October, 1927, at the home of Mrs. Charles Todd. Officers were Mrs. Axel Mikkelsen, chairman; Mrs. B. A. Silbaugh, vice chairman, and Mrs. Melvin Todd, secretary and treasurer. Of the 15 original members, Mrs. Charles Todd, Mrs. Axel Mikkelsen, Mrs. Stella Brehe and Mrs. Effie Cass are the only four charter members still here.

Busy Bee Club was organized in 1933, with 13 members of which Mrs. Arnold Schreiber, Mrs. Alvin Joachim and Mrs. Rudolph Mundt are still active. The club eventually changed its name to Jolly Time Club, with an average of about 15 members. The club purchased land and kept up a park in Agar. Six of their members have been chosen "Fine Lady". The club includes members from Agar and vicinity.

Onida Extension Club was organized in the fall of 1943. Two of the Charter members, Mrs. Vern Palmer and Mrs. Jim Lawrence, are still active members. Mrs. Palmer is now District 7 president. The average number of members has been about twelve. Most of the members are residents of Onida.

On July 28, 1948, County Council Chairman Mrs. Corydon Ludwig and Vice Chairman Mrs. Axel Mikkelsen, met with a group of ladies from Summit, Onida, Goodwater and Lewellyn Park townships and the town of Onida, at the Clifford Thompson home to assist in organizing the **S. E. H. Club**, with 15 members. Several of the ladies had previously belonged to an Extension Club in the early twenties. They were Mrs. Roy Grove, Mrs. Isabella Pierce, Mrs. Earl Miller and Mrs. R. S.

Goddard. Mrs. F. R. Burgeson belonged for a very short time in Nebraska. The first officers were Mrs. Clifford Thompson, chairman; Mrs. F. R. Burgeson, vice chairman, and Mrs. Lee Lindell, secretary and treasurer. Average number of members has been ten. Mrs. Burgeson and Mrs. Thompson are the only charter members in the club.

J. J. Club held its first meeting at the home of Mrs. C. A. Kessler in Onida on November 22, 1948, with 12 members present. Of those joining, the charter members remaining are Mrs. Charles Hoover, Mrs. Russell Hoover, Mrs. Conrad Huse and Mrs. Robert Mikkelsen. The average number of members has been ten.

Progress Club was organized in April of 1950. The name of the club was changed to Blaine Progress Club in 1953, and changed back to Progress Club in 1958. Charter members still belonging are Mrs. Elmer Lehmkuhl, Mrs. Alvin Thomas and Mrs. George Fanger. The average number of members has been eight, all living in the southeastern part of the county.

West Sully Club was organized in 1952, with 11 members, and has had an average of eight members. The first officers were Mrs. James Zebroski, chairman; Mrs. Rose Clark, vice chairman, and Mrs. Lowell West, secretary and treasurer. Members of this club live in the extreme west end of the county. Charter members remaining in the club are Mrs. James Zebroski, Mrs. Lowell West and Mrs. William E. Serbousek.

F. H. D. Club was organized in the fall of 1949 with five members. Mrs. Harold Martin was chairman. Most of the club's members live in Onida.

Harmony Girls Club, organized in



Style Show put on by a group of Blaine-Lincoln Club members at Sully County Fair, 1924. Left to right — Mrs. Van Ludwig, Mrs. Tony Etzkom, Mrs. Everett Stewart, Mrs. Luther Nelson, Mrs. Henry Hertel and Mrs. Emel Johnson.



Sully County Women's Chorus, 1956 Front row, left to right — Mrs. Forrest Byrum, Mrs. Ray Cass, Mrs. John Cavanaugh, Mrs. Donald Martin, Mrs. Ralph Wagner (hidden), Mrs. Elliott Bouchie and Mrs. Gus Westphal. Back row — Mrs. Alvin Joachim, Mrs. Fred Smith (hidden), Mrs. Tony Lamb, Mrs. Harry Cass, Mrs. William Williams, Mrs. Isaac Smith, Mrs. Donald Martin (hidden) and Mrs. Leo Weischedel, Mrs. Leonard Venner, director, and Mrs. Coleman Smith pianist.

1955 as the S. S. E. Club, had 11 members. Officers were Mrs. Henry Becker, chairman, and Mrs. Ralph Letellier, secretary and treasurer. Members of this club live southwest of Onida and in Onida. S. S. E. was changed to Harmony Girls in 1958.

Some of the older clubs which have disbanded were Kum-Join-U's, Lincoln Hustlers, Blaine-Lincoln, Friendly Circle, Welcome Club, T.N.T. Club, Kountry Kates, and Happy Hour.

The following are Sully County Fine Ladies: Mrs. Wilbur Peterson, 1941; Mrs. Van Ludwig, 1942; Mrs. G. C. Reynolds, 1943; Mrs. Theron McKenney, 1944; Mrs. H. A. Brooking, 1945; Mrs. Axel Mikkelsen, 1946; Mrs. Charles Lomheim, 1947; Mrs. Clifford Phillips, 1948; Mrs. George Becker, 1949; Mrs. Harry Hilton, 1950; Mrs. Arnold Schreiber, 1951; Mrs. Leonard Venner, 1952; Mrs. Fred Wakefield, 1953; Mrs. Corydon Ludwig, 1954; Mrs. Coleman Smith, 1955; Mrs. Vern Palmer, 1956; Mrs. Isaac Smith, 1957, and Mrs. Art Wittler, 1958.

Sully County Women's Chorus

The organization of the Sully County Women's Chorus was instigated by Mrs. John Sutton in March, 1949, with Mrs. Evelyn Venner, of Agar, as director. The purpose of the chorus was for the enjoy-

ment of singing, gaining knowledge of a variety of songs, and the fellowship of its members.

The chorus has entertained at various functions, including The County Fair, eight district Extension meetings, Crop Shows, Recreation Days, Blunt Silver Tea, and four state Women's Extension meetings. Each Christmas meeting is unique in its originality of providing a program.

Charter members are Mrs. Isaac Smith, Mrs. James Sutton, Mrs. Ralph Wagner, Mrs. Theron McKenney, Mrs. Fred Smith, Mrs. Alvin Joachim, Mrs. Coleman Smith and Mrs. Leonard Venner.

Present officers are Mrs. Leonard Venner, president and director; Mrs. Elliott Bouchie, vice president, and Mrs. Phyllis Wagner, secretary and treasurer. — E. V.

☆☆☆ **Sully County Fair**

The Sully County Fair was organized in 1923, through the efforts of a group of people representing the members of local community clubs throughout the county and County Extension Agent L. M. Woodruff. These people felt there should be some way by which the results of the use of improved farming practices could be brought before the eyes of every citizen

of the county. As a result of these interested people, an organization was formed under the existing laws, and county aid was obtained to the extent of \$400.00.

The first County Fair was held on the main street of Onida. Most exhibits consisted of farm crops and produce, livestock exhibits being curtailed by contagious livestock diseases occurring at that time and lack of housing. A machinery exhibit, as part of the fair, was situated near the Dave Gustafson Implement.

The officers of the first County Fair were B. M. Lister, president; Claude M. Jones, vice chairman; M. R. Brown, treasurer, and Lewis M. Woodruff, secretary. The remainder of the board was made up of committees, members of which were W. H. Ruckle, M. R. Brown, H. C. Teets, L. D. Johnson and Albert Youngberg.

The fair met with such approval and enthusiasm the year of its inauguration that the following year a more extensive organization was formed with a board of directors chosen from throughout the county. This board consisted of the officers and ten members. They were H. A. Brooking, president; Claude Jones, vice president; M. R. Brown, treasurer; Lewis M. Woodruff, secretary, and the other directors Albert Youngberg, Henry Hertel, Harry C. Teets, D. C. Morris, C. E. Byrum, Carl Falkenhagen, Van Ludwig, George Trumble, P. H. Peterson and E. H. Garrett.

The 1924 fair brought in many exhibits of all classes including grain, livestock, garden and community booths. Because of the increase of exhibits, space for exhibiting was very difficult to find and the people of the county felt something should be done to acquire permanent grounds and facilities.

In 1925, the fair association purchased 30.47 acres of land near the city limits at the southeast corner of Onida for a sum of \$3060.00. An 8-sided exhibit building was erected, 46 feet in diameter, one swine barn 16'x60' and a cattle barn 24'x96' at a cost of \$2859.75. Needed grading was done for a race track.

The increase of facilities brought an added incentive to the fair and the exhibits increased proportionately. Finances, of course, were a problem, but were met by the eager enthusiasm of the entire county. The county commissioners ap-

propriated \$2500.00 for the fair and the clubs throughout the county contributed, as did the merchants of Onida, Agar and Okobojo. The Sully County Fair was beginning to appear as a permanent part of our county's annual affairs.

1928 saw a greater need for improvement and facilities, so a grandstand was erected on the west side of the race track, another swine and sheep barn was erected and a permanent lighting system was installed.

During the 1930's the fair exhibits were sometimes lacking in abundance, but not in quality. 4-H work and boys' and girls' exhibits increased many times over in the county as we advanced through the 30's. As friendly rivalry increased between clubs and individuals, higher quality grain, garden produce, livestock, sewing, culinary and other exhibits became apparent. This enthusiasm has carried through the 1940's and 1950's. As a result more facilities were needed for 4-H exhibits.

The increase of livestock exhibits and other functions surrounding the fair made it necessary that a permanent water system be established on the fair grounds. This was accomplished in 1946.

In 1954, a new 4-H building was constructed. This building is a 40'x80' quonset type. The 4-H building has been filled to capacity with exhibits each fair since its construction. It is also used during the year for various 4-H activities and is available for other community functions.

The Sully County Fair Association is composed of all people of Sully County represented by a Fair Board made up of 35 people, including 4-H leaders, home extension club leaders and others from both rural and town. The county home extension agent and county agricultural agent are advisory members. The present officers of the board are Charles Hoover, chairman; Edna Mae Day, vice chairman; Edith McKenney, treasurer, and James Brooking, secretary.

The Sully County Fair has been known for many years as the "Biggest Little Fair in South Dakota." The purpose of the fair has been maintained through the years "To show the accomplishments and advances of Sully County agriculture and home life." — J. B.

Farm Bureau

The Sully County Farm Bureau was officially organized July 20, 1920. At that time the Farm Bureau actively supported extension work through securing county aid and continued acting in this capacity until 1934, when state legislation severed this connection. Not only was financial aid for extension work secured, but local community clubs were organized through Farm Bureau. The leader or chairman of each club in turn formed the directors of the county unit. The county unit, using suggestions by the community clubs, drew up a list of project suggestions for advancement in Sully County agriculture and these projects were carried out as completely as possible by the county extension agent.

In 1923, the agricultural leaders thought something should be done to open the eyes of the local people to the possibilities of improved agricultural practices in the county. Accordingly, each local community club selected a project leader who met with other leaders in the county, along with the county extension agent. Sentiment was favorable throughout the county and an organization was formed and thus the Sully County Fair began.

One of the highlights in the history of the Sully County Farm Bureau was the annual picnic of 1934, when Edward O'Neil, national president of the American Farm Bureau Federation, gave the address of the day before some 2500 people.

Eleven community Farm Bureau clubs were active in Sully County at one time. These clubs held their meetings in the different farm homes at first, but as membership increased the local township schoolhouses were used as meeting places.

During the late thirties, the activities of the Farm Bureau were curtailed because of drought and the consequent lack of funds. However, in 1946, the organization was reactivated with three local clubs and a county unit. Later the three local clubs affiliated with the county unit.

The county unit is comprised of the entire county membership with a board of nine directors chosen by the membership. The directors are elected each year at the annual County Farm Bureau banquet and meeting. The county officers are elected by the membership from the nine directors elected.

The annual county meeting and ban-

quet is held each fall prior to the state Farm Bureau annual meeting. Resolutions pertaining to farm problems on local, state and national levels are discussed. These resolutions are adopted by vote by the membership. The delegates to the state convention are also chosen at this time.

The present members of the Board of Directors are James Brooking, president; Adolph Brehe, vice president; Emel Johnson, secretary; Harold Currier, treasurer; Charles Stephens, L. Ray Cass, Wayne Nelson, Oliver Byrum and Clarence Ludwig. Louis Fosness is the local insurance representative for the Sully County Farm Bureau.

The activities of the Sully County Farm Bureau include bringing services to its members; holding educational meetings for the purpose of informing its members on important issues of the day in the field of agricultural research; legislative actions on local, state and national levels; farm economic information, and many more.

Our local Sully County Farm Bureau is affiliated with the South Dakota and American Farm Bureau Federations.

Much could be said concerning the efforts of many of the men and women in Sully County who were and still are instrumental in organizing the Sully County Farm Bureau and continuing the high level of activity of this farm organization. However, lack of space and loss of recorded memberships through the years prevent us from giving a complete and accurate listing. — J. B.



Farmers Union

Sully County Farmers Union was organized in 1929, with a membership of about two hundred. The first officers were P. J. McCoy, chairman, and W. H. Parkin, secretary. Charter members were Frank Winkler, Jake Walter, Joe Hofer, C. H. Yackley and William Becker.

In the 1930's, a cooperative store was owned and operated by this organization. In recent years the membership has grown considerably. Each year several delegates are sent to Washington, D. C. to meet with our congressional delegation, and two delegates are sent to the United Nations in New York to attend sessions at the General Assembly.

Farmers Union is always working

for better rural life conditions. A great deal was done toward getting REA and RTA to rural people as soon as possible after World War II. Also fair prices to farmers for their commodities has always been its goal.

Each year a County Counsellors Convention is held at the state office in Huron. At this meeting every local organization in the state is represented with a delegate. At this convention resolutions are debated which are later presented to the state legislature, as well as to congress.

This organization always donates money to welfare organizations, as well as to 4-H work and other youth activities. Also summer camps are held in the state each summer for the young people.

In 1958, the officers were: George Lytle, chairman; Benny Gross, secretary-treasurer, and Lawrence Venner, vice chairman.



Missouri Slope Irrigation Committee

Late in October, 1956, a group of Sully County farmers selected representatives, to be known as the Missouri Slope Irrigation Committee, to continue to gather information and to promote irrigation in this area.

The group, sponsored by the Onida Chamber of Commerce, included Maurice Green, Phil Seaman, Earl Baxter, and C. H. Yackley, farmers; Harold Wood, county agent, and E. L. Thompson, publisher.

An area of approximately 81,000 acres in western Sully County is believed to be suited to irrigation and can be supplied with water from the Oahe reservoir.



Okobojo Women's Club

The Okobojo Women's Club was organized Feb. 8, 1921, at the home of Mrs. Will Green, and has been active since its organization. There were eleven ladies at the first meeting. Among them were Bessie Lumley, Della McGannon, Beulah Glessner and Mary Bush, who are honorary members of the club today.

The first officers were Vida Christy, president; Bessie Lumley, vice president, and Isabel McMacken, secretary and treasurer.

Some of the other early members were Florence Groseclose, Edwina Harry, Bertha Bunch, Beulah Glessner, Zora

Crawford, Myrtle Glessner, Retta Garrett and Florence Green.

The club was first named Okobojo Community Club, but in November, 1921, it was changed to Okobojo Rotary Club. Later the name was again changed to the Okobojo Women's Club, as it is known today.

While called the Okobojo Women's Club, this organization covers a much wider territory as its membership includes those from the surrounding townships. There are also a few members from Onida and Pierre.

The purposes of the club, when organized, were educational, religious, charitable and social. These have been carried out in numerous ways. At present, the club sponsors the OK-O 4-H club.

The annual auction sale, originated by Mrs. W. W. Warner in 1937, is held in October and furnishes funds for the Christmas party. The children of five schools provide a program, and the tree and treats are donated by the Women's Club.

The club membership varies from year to year. At one time there were over forty members, and, at present, there are twenty-eight regular members and five honorary members. The spirit of goodwill and helpfulness has continued through the years.



Old Settlers' Association

A number of residents of Sully County met in the public school building in Clifton on March 2, 1888, for the purpose of forming an organization of the old settlers of the county.

Andrew McFall, Esq., called the meeting to order and briefly stated the object of the meeting. He nominated Dr. H. G. Pease, of Carson, temporary chairman. Dr. Pease was unanimously elected. J. H. Gropengieser, of Clifton, was chosen temporary secretary. A committee, including McFall and Gropengieser, of Clifton, and D. A. Harpold and L. H. Bruner, of Okobojo township, were appointed to draft a constitution for the association.

The following officers were unanimously elected to hold office until the annual meeting in September, 1888: Dr. Pease, president; Gropengieser, secretary, and William Toomey, of Onida, treasurer. The first annual meeting was held in Clifton on September 5, of that year, and was

attended by people from all parts of Sully County. The original officers were re-elected to serve another year. Okobojo was selected for the next meeting the following year.

The 40th anniversary meeting on August 17, 1923, held in the Onida High School gymnasium, was truly a homecoming. Old-timers from as far east as the state of Maryland, and as far south as Oklahoma, came and spent the day renewing old acquaintances and recalling stirring events among the scenes of their early struggles as pioneers.

The 1938 meeting which marked the 50th anniversary of this organization, was held at the fair grounds in Onida on the opening day of the county fair. Mrs. George Lumley, president of the association, had charge of the meeting and introduced the speakers. Leo A. Temmey, of Huron, then attorney general of South Dakota, gave the main address.

Annual meetings have been held through the years, climaxed with a picnic and renewing acquaintances. In recent years, these meetings have been held in the park in Pierre, South Dakota.



Sportsmen's Club

A special meeting, called by the Oneidas Club of Onida for the purpose of forming a Sportsmen Conservation Club, was held at the municipal auditorium on August 9, 1946 with approximately 75 interested people present. M. A. Knox was elected temporary chairman of the new club.

One of the purposes for organizing a club of this kind was to further law-enforcement for the protection of farmers during the hunting season. Farmers, who bear the brunt of raising game birds, especially pheasants, are also the ones to suffer the most damage from careless hunters, and it was hoped that more farmers would join the club, for with a goodly number of their names on the membership roll, the club would have a considerable influence on future legislation in the game department.

At a meeting held in October, 1948, members of the Club proposed improvements at Lake Sully. Graveling the bathing beach and dikes that were erected to form the beach, constituted one of the major jobs. Henry Lomheim offered the use of several trucks, and volunteer labor

by club members was available. Regular election of officers was held with the following chosen to serve for 1949: Wilber Day, president; Ed Cruthoff, vice president, and Max Rodman was named to hold over as secretary and treasurer,

Thirty members of the club observed Arbor Day on April 24, 1949, by planting 800 trees at Cottonwood Lake, eight miles east of Agar.

During the month of January, 1950, the Club sponsored a pheasant feeding program in the hopes of saving the birds. A load of ear corn was purchased and distributed in the bird cover area. Herschel Ellis, president of the club, asked interested sportsmen to assist with the work. The pheasant population was very low at that time and the weather and feed conditions were such that feeding was necessary if Sully County were to save its brood stock.

About 60 members were present at the February, 1952, meeting to help elect officers, enjoy some special talks and partake of mulligan stew. In the election of officers, James Sutton was chosen president; Preston Starbuck, vice president, and Leo Lemmel, secretary and treasurer. "Duke" Lamsteer showed movies of the 1951 World Series.

Over 100 interested listeners were on hand the evening of October 22, 1954, to hear Walter Heldt, a taxidermist from Sioux Falls, tell of his experiences on hunting trips into Mexico and Alaska. Heldt also showed movies covering his hunting trips. Special guests for the meeting were members of sportsmen's clubs from Pierre and Blunt.



Young Citizens League

Professor M. M. Guhin, director of rural education of Aberdeen Normal School, developed the concepts of the Young Citizens League work by first establishing it in the rural practice schools under the supervision of the Aberdeen Normal and then into the rural schools of Brown County. He then published the plan in a bulletin issued by the Normal and sent it to teachers and county superintendents all over the state.

The project started in the schools of Sully County in the early 1920's and at first was localized interest within each school's activities.

The first state Y.C.L. convention was



South Dakota Delegates
Attending Launching of
Liberty Ship, The M. M.
Guhin, Oregon Shipbuilding
Yards, 1942. Front
 row, left to right — Miss
 Diane Vinton, flower girl,
 Portland, Oregon; Miss
 Mary A. Guhin, niece of
 M. M. Guhin, Aberdeen,
 South Dakota, who christened
 the ship. Middle
 row (delegates) — John
 Sutton, Jr., Agar; Allen
 Towne, Midland, and Eugene
 Linerville, Cash, S. Dak.
 Back row — Rev. I. George
 Nace, Portland, and Woodrow
 Hall, Cash, instructor in
 charge of the group.

held at Pierre on May 9 and 10, 1927. Delegates and visitors were present from all over the state. Professor Guhin explained that the Y.C.L. was a South Dakota project, as it was virtually unknown in other states. It had developed into an organization which included more members than any organization in the state and was conceived and prompted in the spirit of patriotism and loyalty to America and its flag.

The first county convention was held in Onida in the spring of 1930, and at that time there were about 50 rural school leagues in the county. Now in 1958, there are three rural leagues, two from the Agar grades, and one from practically all of the grade rooms in Onida. The Agar leagues participated from the very beginning, and those from Onida have taken part for the past seven or eight years.

Each fall the Y.C.L. sponsors a County Speaking Contest. For the past few years the contest material has been memorizing nursery rhymes, by the first grade; reading a story, by the second grade; telling flannel-graph stories, by the third and fourth grades; poetry reading, by the fifth and sixth grades, and humorous declamations, by the seventh and eighth grades. Winners from the various groups,

with the exception of the primary grades, represent the county in the regional contest in Pierre.

At the business meeting held each spring, every league in the county is represented by a delegate. At that time officers are elected for the coming year, and two delegates are chosen to attend the state convention in Pierre. For the sake of convenience, girls are selected as delegates one year, and boys the next.

The rural schools took an active part in all war time activities and as a result won honors in the National Scrap Iron Gathering Contest. North Troy won second place in the state with a per capita poundage of 13,983 pounds. An expense paid trip to launch a Liberty Ship was given to a student representing each of the three winning schools in the state. As a delegate from his school, John Sutton, Jr., had the opportunity to attend the christening of the 116th Liberty Ship launched at the Oregon Shipbuilding yards, in 1942, and named for the well-known educator in South Dakota, M. M. Guhin, the founder of Y.C.L. The event was made memorable by a noon luncheon, at which time each boy was presented with a leather portfolio containing pictures of the shipyards and the ship they helped to launch. Two from Sully County



The M. M. Guhin, South
Dakota's Liberty Ship
Launched in 1942.

to greet the delegates were Oren Scholion and Eloise Bos.

The study of wildlife occupied a prominent position in the rural school curriculum during the winter of 1957, in addition to the usual "three R's". Rural school children selected "South Dakota Wildlife" as their project and state game wardens were very helpful in their task. The Sully County Y.C.L. received credit for suggesting the study of wildlife, and urged its acceptance at the state convention in the spring. Presentation of the subject was made by Jim Thompson, Onida, on behalf of the Sully organization. The wardens of the Department of Game, Fish and Parks, assisted over 350 teachers and 4,000 pupils in 11 central South Dakota counties during the winter. The students concentrated principally on the wildlife found within their respective counties.

For the past four or five years the business meeting has been held a few weeks prior to the music festival held in the spring, the highlight of the year. The county has been divided into groups, and each group furnishes a number, rather than one, from each of the individual schools, thus obtaining a better and more varied program. The group numbers center around the themes of holidays, pioneers and conservation. The 1958 program included a musical skit on Conservation of Wildlife, the theme for that year's study. Madonna Venner emceed the skit and Mrs. Leonard Venner was the director. The Y.C.L. county chorus, also directed by Mrs. Venner, presented several numbers.

The 1958 delegates to the state convention, held in Pierre, were Linda Kilpatrick, Brenda Currier and Jerry Thomas, accompanied by Mrs. William Buol.

Officers elected for the 1958-59 term were Dale Chipman, president; Tom Bown, vice president, and David Sargent, secretary. — M. S.

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R E A

Rural Electrification became possible with the enactment of the Rural Electrification Act on May 20, 1936, by the Congress of the United States. This start in electrification of rural America helped the more thickly settled areas to form Cooperatives, obtain loans from the govern-

ment and for rural areas to serve themselves.

In thinly settled areas such as Sully County, rural electric cooperatives were not considered feasible until 1947, when the amortization period was extended to thirty-five years and the interest rate set at two per cent on loans by the government to rural electric cooperatives. At that same time, the rural electric cooperatives agreed to serve anyone in their allotted area.

The first meeting of the Board of Directors of the Central Electric Association, Inc. was held on May 22, 1946, at the office of the Hughes County Agent in the courthouse in Pierre, South Dakota. The meeting was called to order by Mike Smith, of Agar, who was chosen as chairman. Roy Wiseman, of Pierre, was chosen secretary. The following men were the original incorporators of the Association: Mike Smith, Agar; Rudolph Mundt, Agar; Jake Mosiman, Onida; Ray Pool, Blunt; George F. Bowman, Pierre; Ray Wiseman and Fred Stoecker, Pierre. These gentlemen were the first members of the Association and subscribed to ten shares of stock at a cost of \$5.00 for each ten shares. Chairman Smith advised that the Articles of Incorporation had been filed and that the Secretary of State had issued the Articles of Incorporation on April 26, 1946. He further stated that a two weeks notice of intent to adopt By-Laws had been published and that the next order of business was the adoption of the By-Laws.

Meetings of the Board of Directors were held monthly and in October 1946, the minutes show that about 400 signed applications for service had been received.

In February of 1947, the General Engineering Corporation was selected as project engineer and instructed to prepare maps. The minutes of April 1947, show that maps and membership surveys for Sully County were completed and that Hughes and Sully County maps would be completed within a few days. The May meeting shows that the area of the Cooperative was agreed upon which included Hughes, Sully and Stanley counties.

In April 1948, a resolution was passed authorizing the purchase of the Onida Municipal power plant and facilities. On July 7, 1948, a public meeting

was held in Onida to discuss the sale of the City power plant. An offer of \$50,000.00 was made to Onida for their power plant. At a special meeting held on September 1, 1949, the Board of Directors voted to buy the generating plant and facilities of the City of Agar from the Montana Dakota Utilities Company.

On June 28, 1950, the Addie Mundt farm was energized. This was the first farm to receive electric service. The Village of Agar had received electric service a few days prior to this date.

The matter of buying the electric power plant and distribution system from the City of Onida was dropped late in 1954 when the last offer made by the Co-operative was not accepted. — G. E. O.



Transportation

The earliest means of transportation to Fort Sully from 1866-1878 was by steamboat up the Missouri River. Forty to seventy steamboats were used to convey passengers and freight to the Trading post.

Since there were only trails in those early years, the only means of travel for many of the earliest settlers was either horseback or walking. Some were known to walk with a wheelbarrow to the nearest railroad town to purchase their flour, coffee and other staple foods.

The Chicago & Northwestern Railroad ran excursion trains into Blunt, bringing in eastern people who were seeking homes in this new land. A great many who came, filed on Sully County homesteads. Others came to our county with their families in covered wagons drawn by oxen.

A stage coach and mail route, via Onida, from Blunt to LeBeau was established during the summer of 1883.

The lumber wagon was commonly used for hauling. As the people acquired more, and wished to travel in style the spring wagon or surrey became popular.

H. W. Ruckle, who was a carriage and cabinet maker by trade, built many buggies and repaired others for his neighbors. Others made use of the bicycle, in lieu of easier transportation.

About 1905, several automobiles appeared. Dr. Kendall had an auto, which looked very much like a buggy and had hard rubber tires.

In August of 1910, the Chicago and

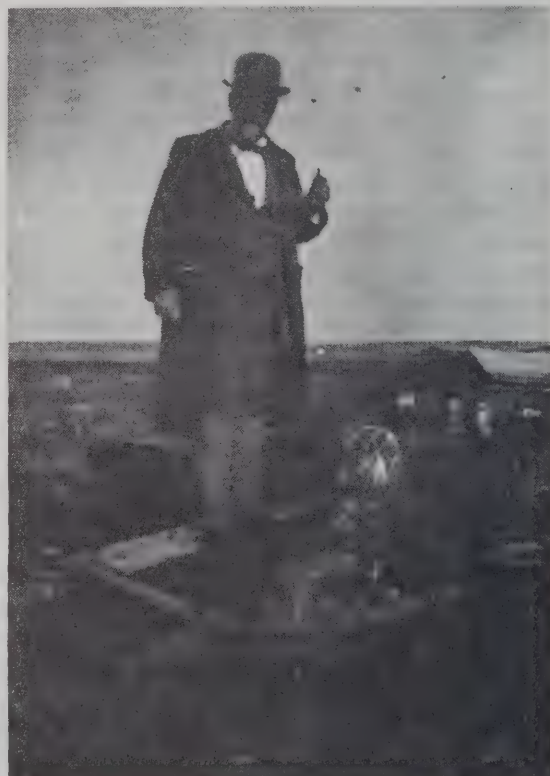
Northwestern Railroad passenger train came through both Agar and Onida, connecting us with Blunt and Gettysburg. This train ran daily until 1946, at which time the passenger train was discontinued. At present there is only a freight train, running twice weekly. In the place of our passenger train, the Central Bus line now carries both passengers and U. S. mail from Pierre to Bismarck, North Dakota. Much of our freight, grain and livestock are hauled by truck at the present time.

We now may travel by air, as we have several registered pilots. So we have come a long way — our cow paths or trails, are now blacktop highways, running through our towns. — L. R.



Features and Featurettes

The artesian well put down two and a half miles east of Onida by the Dubuque Syndicate, represented by Col. John H. King, was completed October 27, 1899. It was very successful, flowing a continuous stream two inches in diameter. The pressure was twenty pounds to the square inch of clear water and was a good flow considering the depth of the well — 1670



John H. King. Standing beside his first artesian well put down in Sully County, 1899.



Steam Breaking Rig, Five gang, ten plows, used in 1908.

feet. The well was of great benefit to Sully County in more ways than one, as it settled the question that this county was in the artesian basin and indicated the depth necessary to drill to obtain a good well. The "King Well" is located in the center of Section six in Blaine Township, now owned by Sutton Brothers. The John Hughart family live there.



The manager of the Kansas Artificial Rain Company met with representatives of various counties in South Dakota on January 20 and 21, 1892, to explain the system of producing rain by the use of chemicals in the air while at a temperature of 50 to 60 degrees. Three districts were formed at that time — Sully County



Elva Hyde, Teacher at West Onida School, about 1907. Now Mrs. George Nelson.

included — to raise \$112.00 for the first rain.



Sully County had a remarkable record in the year 1905. With a territory larger than the state of Rhode Island, it had no saloon, no jail, nor a pauper. Furthermore, the county was out of debt, and the cash in the treasury was sufficient to meet any emergency calls.



Henry Esselbrugge owned a half interest in a silver mine in Nevada, and traveled there by stagecoach in August, 1911, to inspect his properties. He reported, on his return, that he did not see any country that surpassed Sully County.



Sully County was valued at four million dollars as of July, 1911, according to Auditor O'Donnell.



One hundred dollars an acre land in Sully County became a reality in the fall of 1919, when William Spencer sold his five hundred acre farm adjoining Onida to some people from Logan, Iowa. The new owners also purchased the entire stock of farm machinery, horses and cattle.



The sale of the A. R. Harlow ranch of 2,560 acres at \$27.00 an acre, making a \$69,000 transaction was completed the first part of April, 1920. This was the largest single real estate deal to be closed in this vicinity up to that time, and another step in the big wave of development soon to sweep over this section. It was like the whistle of the engine announcing the approach of a minited train.

The first Onida Legion Track and

field Meet was held April 26, 1926, under the auspices of Sully Post No. 79, American Legion. The Legion Athletic Committee was composed of C. W. Nattress, chairman; R. L. Nelson, C. J. Crandall, E. Becker, W. C. Jordan, F. Cole and George Williams. There were seventeen schools entered in this Meet which was held at the fair grounds. Miller won the Meet with 41 points. It was the last time for the local people to see Joe Mendell represent Onida High School on the home field. He took first in each event he entered. Matt Glanzer also participated in that Meet, taking second in the 100 and the 220. Will Robinson, of Pierre acted as referee. These Legion sponsored Meets were held in Onida for several years during the late twenties.

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In the early 1930's, the farmers were fully aware of the seriousness of the grasshopper investigations threatening to devour anything green shortly after finding them hatched by the millions everywhere. They were found on the edges of fields and in great swarms in the fields and pastures. At times they were thought to be low flying clouds or mists, when closer examination revealed a densely flying hoard of grasshoppers changing locations to devour another crop of vegetation. It mattered little whether the green was weeds, tree leaves or crops — each one rapidly disappeared when invaded by these insects.

This must have been an age of insects. There were the cut worms, the green and brown army worms, the Mormon beetle and crickets, by the thousands. In the morning one might gather the early garden lettuce, radishes or onions and surmise that in about a week there would be the early peas or string beans and other plants too would look promising, but by evening the garden was a barren desolate spot, devoid of a single edible plant. After an invasion of hoppers a field would look as though a hail storm had struck.

It is quite probable the insect infestations of the 1930's caused the shortage of livestock feed equally as much as the lack of moisture.

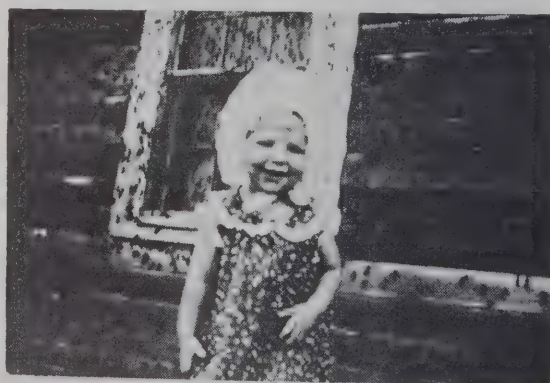
When the seriousness of the situation became apparent, steps were taken to eradicate the grasshoppers, as well as the army worms. Poison bran was scattered



Stanley Asmussen and Orville Fairbank,
Spreading poison bait for grasshopper and insect infestation.

throughout the countryside and nature was also helpful. A small gray fly, a grasshopper parasite, made its appearance and was a most welcome event. The fly's eggs were deposited in the hopper and the maggot resulting caused the death of the insect. By the end of the season the results were hopeful. Another one of nature's aids were the seagulls, seldom seen in this part of the country, but at this time made their appearance. A beautiful graceful bird, and truly a gift to man. They devoured cut worms, beetles and grasshoppers, all with equal relish. It was easy to understand why the Mormons of Utah have made a statue in honor of the seagull.

It was impossible at times to let small children outside, or the hoppers would settle on them and how they could bite. Also the green beetle would leave a painful blister and thereby was generally



Delores Venner, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Venner, Standing beside grasshopper covered building in the early 30's.

referred to as the blister beetle. In the afternoon it was not uncommon to see a mass of grasshoppers on the shady side of a building, or a field of grain with two or three hoppers on every plant. On the highways, at times, cars would run onto moving masses of both Mormon beetles (wingless insects) or grasshoppers so thick the road would become slippery from their crushed bodies. When they would make mass movements, it was like a cloud passing over the sun. The trees too were as stripped of foliage as though it was winter, but there too, nature saved them. In the late summer the trunks of many trees would be covered with short new branches of leaves while the original branches would be barren.

Somehow nature was a part of this phenomina as the years between 1930 and 1940, were definitely insect years.

At one time the largest known Cottonwood on the North American Continent was located in Sully County in the Missouri River bottoms near the John Sutton home.

People came from far and near to

see the tree. They measured and were convinced. The tree was twelve feet in diameter and $36\frac{1}{2}$ feet in circumference, and it took six men, touching fingers, to reach around it. An open road was kept for the convenience of the visitors and many a picnic was held under the covering foliage of this tree of trees. The bark was generously marked with the initials of the many who came. This giant of trees was blown down on August 4, 1932, and for many years big trees were often mentioned, but none officially recognized as heir to the title.

A search for the state's biggest tree was sponsored by the "Keep South Dakota Green Association". All the entries were Cottonwoods and all located along the Missouri River. The heir apparent to the first tree was again found in Sully County in the Missouri River bottom, near the John Sutton home, not too far from the first largest tree and could easily have been a seedling of the original. The present big tree measures 23 feet, eight inches in girth, is 117 feet tall and has a spread of 85 feet. Before long this venerable prairie monarch will be covered by the waters of the Oahe Dam.

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Beginning in 1929, and until 1934, a Central South Dakota Rodeo show was a summer event at the Sutton Ranch on the banks of the Missouri River. The date was usually after June 21, and continued for a three-day period. Planned by Ed Sutton and his sons and assisted by capable performers, the shows were outstanding in entertainment. The hard times in the middle thirties and Mr. Sutton's failing health were the decisive factors in discortinuing these shows.

The stock used was rugged and fast and every contestant earned his laurels the hard way. Some of the attractive acts seen at this western Sully County rodeo were driving a buffalo team hitched to a chariot; riding two-year-old buffalo steers, a feat almost impossible to accomplish; riding wild horses in races, and seeing the only white faced buffalo in existance at that time.

The first year, the Aberdeen Airways provided airplane sight-seeing rides. Happy Jack O'Malley and his musicians of radio fame, from the W. N. A. X. station in Yankton, provided the music for a number of years.



Largest Cottonwood Tree on North American Continent, Located near John Sutton ranch.



William (Billy) Wagner, Putting Sutton's jumping horse through its paces.

In 1931, Clyde Ice provided the airplane thrills, and John Geise of Aberdeen made the parachute jumps, the first seen by almost everyone in this part of the country.

Another entertaining event was Sutton's amazing jumping horse. He performed with an easy grace that was breathtaking as he easily cleared the width of two cars or two horses or whatever obstacle it might have been.

Some of the best known performers in the rodeo business were seen at this Central South Dakota show. Some of them were Jim Nesbit, the best among rodeo clowns, and his wife, a well trained trick rider; Francis and Joe McMacken, former residents of the Okobojo area and top all-around cowboys, and many others whose identity have been lost to time.

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The murder of Miss Ada Carey, of Blunt, on May 21, 1937, which was one of the worst crimes ever committed in South Dakota, brought a sudden end to a planned crime career of two Chicago youths, Howard Christensen, 16, and Norman Westberg, 17, whom Miss Carey had picked up as hitchhikers, but who later beat her up and shot her in an attempted hold-up on the highway several miles north of Onida. Miss Carey, who had been teaching school in the town of Frankfort for two years, had stopped in Gettysburg to visit a friend en route to her home in Blunt.

The crime terminated with the wrecking of the car near the Myers farm about four miles north of Onida. According to officials, it was thought the shooting occurred in the vicinity of the hill south of Agar, coming down to Okobojo Creek. It was about here that Miss Carey was hit over the head with a hammer by Westberg, then shot by Christensen and fell out of the car as it came to a stop in the ditch. Putting her in the rear seat, the boys then speeded on until they noticed a car following them, attempted to stop for a side-road and tipped over into the ditch. The boys abandoned the car and fled westward, while Frank Hiatt of Huron, who had been following them, stopped at the scene of the accident briefly and then went on for help. He stopped at the William Ruckle farm where he requested Mrs. Ruckle to return and watch over Miss Carey, and then continued to Onida where he notified officials. Dr. V. W. Embree accompanied Sheriff Jack Reedy to the scene and brought Miss Carey to the hospital in Onida for immediate treatment. Although in a very weak condition, she was able to furnish a description of the boys and sign the statement taken by Attorney F. M. Ryan. She identified Westberg as the boy who shot her and Christensen as the one who hit her over the head with a hammer. Miss Carey died at 2:50 that afternoon.

Men from Onida, Agar, Gettysburg and surrounding territory searched the countryside and finally located the boys northwest of Onida on the Cottrill place, hiding in a ditch among some weeds. They were brought to the courthouse for a brief questioning, then to the hospital where Miss Carey identified them, then back to the courthouse for further questioning. Sheriff Reedy then took them to Pierre when word of Miss Carey's death was announced and threats were heard among the large crowd against the lives of the prisoners.

The two boys pleaded "not guilty" to the crime. The jury's verdict stated the boys "while engaged in the commission of a felony, killed and murdered Miss Carey". A life sentence is mandatory for murder in this state.

At the time of the conviction a petition was signed by about 3,000 people in this area and filed with the Board of



Hunting Party, 1937. Left to right — Bill Durrstein, Harvey Huffman, Pat Abbott, Merle VonWald, Maynard Knox, John Adams, Preston Starbuck, "Doc" Von Wald, Milo Brown, Frank Hoover and Bert Knox. Not pictured — Wilbur Peterson, Pete Peterson and Herb Leesman.

Pardons that these boys could never be pardoned.



The Fairbank Family's Original Home

The Fairbank family dates back to the year 1636, when they came to the United States from England, from which family Orville Fairbank is a direct descendant.

The Fairbanks located at Dedham, Massachusetts, and built a frame house that first year. That same frame house, built 322 years ago, has been preserved and has been the home of the Fairbank family for more than three centuries.



Fairbank Home, Dedham, Mass., 1939. Oldest Wooden Frame House in U. S. A., built, 1636.

Three Fairbank sisters live in this house at the present time.

The rambling-type home has been in the Fairbank name since it was built and has always been free of mortgage.

In 1938, there were 5,000 Fairbank cousins in the United States, and each year there is a family reunion at this original homestead with several hundred relatives attending.

To date, Mr. and Mrs. Orville Fairbank have not attended any of these reunions, but they plan to in the near future.



Mrs. Alice Adams, who was 85 years old in the year 1946, and an early-day resident of Sully County, had during her lifetime, marked the progress of the pioneer west as expressed or typified in transportation. From the early day ox team, through horse-drawn carriages and later, automobiles, Mrs. Adams experienced all modes to travel. The culmination occurred on Sunday, April 28, 1946, when she took her first airplane ride. Going aloft with Dwight Poage, who piloted his own craft, Mrs. Adams thoroughly enjoyed the experience.



Mrs. Van Ludwig, a daughter of Sully county pioneers, was named a South

Dakota Eminent Homemaker at Brookings on March 4, 1948, at a dinner climaxing the annual Farm and Home Week activities.

Her portrait was hung in the Agriculture Hall of Fame in the Administration Building of State College, along with other previous eminent homemakers from throughout the state.



Mrs. Van Ludwig,
South Dakota Eminent
Homemaker, 1948.

Mrs. Ludwig is a home product. Something of that stamina of spirit of our early pioneers carries over in her to the second generation and she has always been an inspiration to those about her.

Mrs. Ludwig, formerly Mary Alice Lister, of Danville, Illinois, was born October 29, 1875, and attended country school in Illinois. In 1883, her father homesteaded near Onida. She was married in 1898, and after farming in Illinois for eight years, she and her husband purchased a piece of bare prairie which is now Blaine township. The farm grew to 1,800 acres.

The Ludwigs had four children: Corydon, the eldest who is now operating a neighboring farm; Ralph, who now operates a tourist court in Huron; Pauline, (Mrs. Everett Stewart) is presently in business in Onida with her two sons, and Clarence, who now operates the old home farm. Van Ludwig passed away February 14, 1942.

Mrs. Ludwig has been an active member of the extension home demonstration work since it was started in the county in 1923. She has served as chairman of her club for six years, chairman of the county extension organization for six years, chair-

man of the northeast district of federated clubs for two years, and has held numerous other offices of extension work. In 1947, she went to Europe as one of the South Dakota delegates to the Associated Country Women of the World Association at their meeting held in Amsterdam, Holland.

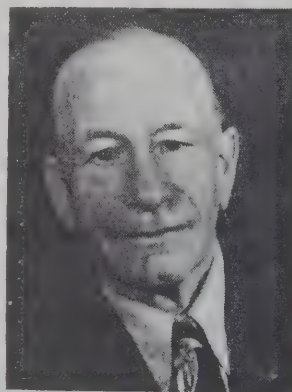
She has been active in work connected with the annual county fair. One year she was a leader in a project in which Sully women presented their pageant at the State Fair.

Mrs. Ludwig has won many prizes with her canning and crocheting, both at the county and state fairs.



Dairy cattle, good cropping methods, adapted crop varieties, family co-operation and extensive community activities were the winning combination for Henry Hertel, 1949 Eminent Farmer from Sully County, South Dakota, who was 64 years old at that time.

After 36 years of farming on the same farm, seven miles southeast of Onida, he found that by having worked these projects together he could take it a little easier in the later years of his life with the feeling that he had not exploited his soils' resources and that he had contributed his share, at least, in the building of a great agricultural society.



Henry Hertel, South
Dakota Eminent
Farmer, 1949.

Henry Hertel was born November 26, 1884, on a dairy farm near Sheboygan, Wisconsin. He was next to the youngest of 14 children. When he was 25, he married Elenor Ries; they took over the homestead and operated it until 1913.

On March 12, 1913, Henry and Elenor and their three children came to Sully County and located on the unimproved half-section which is a part of their 1370-acre farm. They brought their household goods, some farm equipment and ten head of high-quality Holstein milk cows.

For several years he grew certified seed for the Seeds Stock Foundation at State College, and helped increase new varieties in co-operation with the county agent and the state experiment station. He also grew variety and fertilizer test plots in co-operation with State College.

During the six years he was chairman of the Crop Improvement Association, the organization grew in membership from 24 to 75.

Mr. Hertel spent much of his time in his office keeping up his correspondence and interest in community activities.



Former Secretary of Interior Douglas McKay visited with Kenneth Sutton, 15, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Sutton, Onida, when Ken won the state high school cutting horse contest with Major's Traveler at the High School Rodeo at New Underwood in May, 1954. The secretary, who was attending the event to dedicate the new rodeo arena, is an experienced horseman and admired the horse.



Former Secretary of Interior Douglas McKay visiting with Kenneth Sutton shortly after he had won the state high school cutting horse contest with Major's Traveler at New Underwood, 1954.

Five Indoniasia government officials visited the Lee Warne ranch in February, 1957, to look in on large-scale winter cattle feeding operations. Warne, like many other Sully County ranchers, uses stack movers and tractor-powered forks in his feeding operations. This is in great contrast to most Indonesians, where the prime movers are a team composed of a water buffalo and a steer.



A rough box and coffin, containing the remains of a three or four-year-old child, was discovered in September, 1958, in the embankment of a gravel pit located on the Francis Ripley farm in West Sully.

Albert Trumble made the discovery, sighting the partly exposed rough box and casket in the gravel wall of the pit which was uncovered by cave-ins. The pit was opened about a year ago by the county road crew. Trumble summoned Sheriff Jack Reedy, who brought the remains to Onida where the local authorities, Coroner Lyman Carr and Dr. G. I. Westland examined the contents of the coffin and ordered its reburial in the Onida Cemetery. Edward Klix constructed a new rough box and burial was made in Lot 2, Block 68, Northeast Addition of the local cemetery.

On exposure, the rough box crumbled, but the coffin appeared to be an expensive commercial type with glass vision plate and silver handles. Examination of the remains by Dr. Westland and Coroner Carr revealed the skull structure, jaws with perfect set of teeth and bone structure of a child from three to four years old. The examiners indicated that the burial perhaps was made 50 years ago or longer. There was no indication of the identity.

The gravel pit, in which the remains were found, is located in the southeast corner of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of section 24-114-79.



One of the few effigies still intact, left by the Sioux Indians in the early days as a memorial of a notable event in their history, is a pony in outline located near the south bank of the Okobojo Creek on the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of 16-115-77 in Garner township. The pony lies with its head facing west and is very perfect in form. It is 14 feet long and six feet high.

It is located somewhere near the old William Ruckle farm.

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A Sully County girl won the junior division of the 12th South Dakota "Make It Yourself" Wool Contest held at Belle Fourche, South Dakota, in November, 1958. Winner in the junior division was Jean Garrett, 16, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Geoff Garrett, of west Sully. Miss Garrett, a five-foot, six inch brunette, modeled a blue and gray chemise dress. She will receive an expense-paid trip to the national contest in Portland, Oregon.



Miss Jean Garrett, Winner in the junior division of South Dakota "Make It Yourself" Wool Contest, 1958.

Sully County's Firsts . . .

The first newspaper printed was the Onida Journal on May 24, 1883.

Charles H. Agar was the first treasurer of Sully County, being appointed in May, 1883.



Mary D. Goddard

It is reported that Mary D. Goddard, daughter of Frank and Clara Goddard, was the first white child born in Sully County.

The first marriage took place at Okobojo on July 25, 1883, uniting William Oman and Miss Hattie A. Kelm.

The first quit claim deed recorded was placed on the books by Register Meloon on August 17, 1883. Mary Minar to Ralph W. Cavanaugh, piece of property in the west end.

The first instance of the right of suffrage in Sully County was exercised on January 16, 1886, when votes were cast at an election to bond the Farmington school township for \$700.00, in order to build a school house. In February, of the same year, the Territorial Superintendent decided that women were not entitled to vote at school elections.

The first corn picking machine was purchased by Burton Egbert, from Okobojo Township in July, 1909.

Robert Williams was the first man in Sully County to be called to the Colors under the selective draft.

A Toast To The Old Pioneers

Backward, turn backward, oh time, in thy flight,
The beards of Onida are doing alright;
From the teenager's side-burns, so silky and lush,
To the handle-bar mustache and full-throated brush.
Oh, its many a day since that memorable year
When those first early settlers unloaded their gear;
With sweat on their brows and dust on their boots,
Watched the sun slowly set or'e the Fort Sully Buttes.
But time has a habit of loping right through,
And the old steps aside to make room for the new.
Where the Colt .45 once was law by demand,
Jet fighters patrol; keeping watch or'e the land.
And here as we watch this antiquity show
Of how and who done it a long time ago;
We thrill to our thoughts of the old Pioneers
Who founded this town with both laughter and tears.
We smile as we view the capricious parade
Exhibiting that with which history was made;
As slowly it moves amidst laughter and cheers,
Depicting the progress of seventy years.
Yes, gadgets and "do-dads" repeatedly change,
But faces and people stay mostly the same.
For the eye fills with tears or will sparkle and glow,
Just the same as they did in that long, long ago.
So, backward, turn backward, oh time, in thy pace,
While we look at sunbonnets and ruffles and lace,
And glimpse through a mist those illustrious years,
With a prayer in our hearts for the Old Pioneers.

George H. Green

The Land of Their Choice

BLAINE TOWNSHIP

A man by the name of Bacon possibly had the distinction of being the first settler in Blaine Township, and within a few short months the Matusch family arrived. Then David and John Hall and Wilson Webster filed claims in March, 1883. J. L. Sheffer and B. M. Lister were also some of the early pioneers to homestead in the county.

Noah Fritz Family

Noah Fritz came to Dakota Territory from Illinois, in 1883, and homesteaded in what is now Blaine Township. The land was all prairie and had to be broke with a walking plow and horses. The railroad had already been established through Blunt, so all supplies and lumber for dwellings had to be hauled from that point by team and wagon.

In 1887, Mr. Fritz married Lizzie Klein, whose parents had come to Dakota Territory from Iowa to homestead.

The Fritz family experienced all the hardships of pioneer days including the blizzard of 1888, prairie fires, droughts and Indian scares. Water was also a problem as wells were dug by hand. It was necessary for many of the early settlers to haul their water for several miles un-

til they were able to find water on their own place.

The winter food supply was stocked up in the fall of the year. Apples and flour were purchased by the barrel and dried fruits in 25 pound boxes. The meat was butchered and cured at home and pork was put down in salt for summer use. There was already plenty to eat as long as there was a sack of dried navy beans and plenty of corn meal.

Milk was put in pans and the cream skimmed off the top and churned into butter which had to be taken to Blunt by team and buggy and shipped to Chicago. During the summer months this meant leaving home very early in the morning in order to get the butter to Blunt before the day became too hot.

Fuel also created a problem during those early years. Hay burners, dried cow chips and corn cobs were used. Wood was hauled from the river and then later coal was shipped in.

Mr. Fritz taught school a number of terms and was superintendent of various Sunday Schools for many years. There were no churches, so Sunday School was held in the country schoolhouses which were moved about a great deal.



J. L. "Link" Sheffer and his crew at work in 1897, using a steam thresher.



Mr. and Mrs. Noah Fritz, son Wallace, and daughter Elsie (Mrs. Ben Klingbeil) in the summer of 1921.

Mr. and Mrs. Fritz have passed away; he in 1927, and she in 1958. Three of their children died in infancy. Their son, Wallace, still resides on the homestead and has since added land to it, known as the C. D. Fanton place. He married Selma Klingbeil, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Julius Klingbeil, who homesteaded in Lake Township.

Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Fritz have two children, Mrs. Norman Bloom and Mrs. Paul Sack.

Elsie Fritz married Ben Klingbeil, son

of Mr. and Mrs. Julius Klingbeil. Elsie and Ben have built up a place a half-mile west of the Fritz homestead and added surrounding land to it. They have two children, Mrs. Harry Hofer and Maynard Klingbeil.



The Gross Family

John G. Gross who moved here with his family from Olivet, South Dakota, purchased his farm from a local real estate firm on May 1, 1919. He participated in all church activities and taught adult Sunday School for many years. His hobbies were raising honey bees and playing the violin. Mrs. Gross has also been active in church work and is a member of the Good Deed Circle.

All new, modern buildings have replaced the original structures since the farm was purchased in 1919. In 1936, a windstorm did considerable damage to every building on the farm and some of the buildings had to be replaced and others repaired. During the summer of 1958, a 36'x80' Armco steel granary was erected.

Today, the combination stock and grain farm is operated by the two Gross brothers, John and Benny, who live with



Aerial view of the Ben Klingbeil farm in Blaine Township in 1958.



Aerial view of the Gross farm in Blaine Township, showing the shelter belt, in 1958.

their mother, Mrs. Mary Gross, Mr. Gross having passed away on January 19, 1949.

There are five children living; the youngest member of the family, Danny, passed away in 1942 at the age of twelve years.

Elizabeth, the oldest child, is married

to David Walter. They live on a farm near Freeman, South Dakota.

Benny, living on the original farm, served in the Marines during World War II. He took part in the fighting in the Pacific and was wounded on the Island of Iwo Jima.

Katherine is now Mrs. Merle Bloom. She and her husband, Rev. Merle Bloom and two children, Mark and Marsha, recently returned from Southern Rhodesia, Africa, as missionaries. They are presently on a year's furlough, living in Chicago, and plan on returning to Southern Rhodesia, for four more years in the missionary field.

Mary Gross is now Mrs. William P. Janzen. They live on a farm near Mountain Lake, Minnesota.

John, also living on the home place, served in the Air Force and was stationed in both the Philippines and Japan.



Henry Hertel Family

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Hertel and three daughters, Marcella, Beatrice and Bernette, came to Blaine Township in March of 1913, from Sheboygan, Wisconsin. They located on an improved half-section of



Mr. and Mrs. Henry Hertel and their nine children. Standing, left to right — Joycelyn (Mrs. Leo Pietrus), Magelle, Lenore (Mrs. Ward Yeager), Arlyne (Mrs. Delmar Huffman), Bernette (Mrs. Allen Junkman), Beatrice (Mrs. Harlow Howard) and Marcella (Mrs. Richard Howard). Seated — Eugene, Mrs. Hertel (Nora), Henry Hertel and Henry, Jr. Taken in 1949.

land belonging to Mrs. Hertel's father, Charles Ries, which he had purchased in 1909.

The Hertel family brought their household goods, some farm machinery and Holstein milk cows with them. One of the machines shipped out was an ensilage cutter—the first in the Onida area. A year later they erected an upright wooden silo which is one of the very few remaining upright silos in the vicinity.

The rest of the family of nine children was born in South Dakota; namely, Eugene, Arlyne, Lenore, Magelle, Joycelyn and Henry, Jr. All the Hertel children attended Blaine school, and Beatrice, Bernette and Arlyne went on to college and taught school.

The depression was the undoing of some, but one of the projects the Hertels relied upon was the Hertel Orchestra which supplemented the family income and provided a source of recreation. The group was booked under the name "Henie Hertel" with Henry at the guitar; Mrs. Hertel at the violin; daughter Magelle at the piano; son-in-law Allen Junkman, trumpet and saxophone, and Ted Warne, drummer.

Mrs. Hertel was active in club work and was a charter member of the Blaine-Lincoln Extension Club.

Mr. Hertel was active in Farm Bureau, Crop Improvement Association, was a charter member of the fair association, a director of the Central Loan Association of the Federal Land Bank, and for

many years chairman of the Sully County Infantile Paralysis chapter. In 1949, he was declared eminent farmer.

Shortly after Henry's death on May 13, 1952, Mrs. Hertel and Magelle moved to their new home in Pierre. This residence was short due to the sudden death of Magelle on October 13, 1955, and Mrs. Hertel's death on September 26, 1956.

The remaining members of the family, all of which are married, are: Marcella, now Mrs. Richard Howard. The Howards, of Blunt, have three sons, Richard Ames, Thomas John and Phillip. Beatrice is now Mrs. Harlow Howard, of Playa del Ray, California. They have two daughters, Ann (Mrs. James Hunts) and Gail (Mrs. Morris Bennett) and son, Clay David, who was the first great grandchild of the Hertels. Bernette is married to Allen Junkman, of Blunt. They have five children, Lynette, Carol, Sandra, Joseph and Mary. Eugene is married to Georgie Kimmett and live in Sheybogan, Wisconsin. They have three daughters, Jean Ann, Jackie and Joele. Arlyne is now Mrs. Delmar Huffman, of Pleasant Hill, California. They have five children, Delmar, Jr., Dixie, Darlene, David and Dannie. Lenore is married to Ward Yeager, of Blunt, and they have seven children, Billy, Maria, Teresa, Gerry, Lenore Ann and twin sons, Richard and Roy; and four step-children, Phyllis, Lois, Carol and Cletus. Joycelyn, now Mrs. Leo Pietrus, of Pierre. They have four children, Charles, Cheryl, Stephen and Mary Jo. Henry, Jr., married Jean



The Hofer family in 1926. Back row, left to right — Mike, Susie, Jake, Josh, Rose, Kate and Joe. Front row — Mary, Elizabeth, Joseph, Ann, Goldie (above), Katrina, Maggie and John J.



Aerial view of the John J. Hofer and Son ranch in 1958.

Main, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Main, of Onida. Henry and Jean, who live on the home place, have one son, Terry, who is the only grandson to carry on the family name.

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John J. Hofer

Mr. and Mrs. John J. Hofer, as newlyweds, moved to Blaine Township in March of 1919, from Yale, South Dakota. Mrs. Hofer was formerly Mary Helen Pullman, and she and John were the first Hofer family to settle permanently in Sully County. They first settled on the Shore place where the Maynard Hofer family now reside. In the spring of 1921, the Hofers began remodeling the house and that fall they built a barn.

John and Mary Hofer lived on that same place for 24 years, and their seven children were born there. LaVerne was born in 1920; Maynard, in 1923; Darlene, in 1927, Kenneth, in 1931; Darryl, in 1934; Joanne, in 1936, and Judy, in 1938. Baby Joanne died of pneumonia that year.

In 1943, the family moved to the place on which Mr. and Mrs. Hofer now reside.

A fire, caused by lightning took its toll, in August, 1951. A large barn, in which was stored 6,000 bushels of newly-harvested oats and rye, was struck by lightning, causing the blaze which resulted in almost complete loss of both building and grain. John replaced the barn with a new 40'x128' steel quonset building.

Four of the Hofer children are married. Maynard was married to Barbara Naanes in 1949. They have one child, and are living on the farm upon which his parents first settled. Darlene became Mrs. Jim Lomheim in 1950; they have three children. The family is living in Brazil, South America, at present. Both Jim and Darlene are in the missionary field. Darryl married Patty Rappana in 1953, and they have three children. Darryl farms in partnership with his father. Kenneth married Eileen Koch Waitman in 1955. They have three children, and live on a farm east of Blunt. LaVerne has purchased a home in Anaheim, California, where she is employed as a registered nurse, specializing in anesthesia. Judy is taking nurses' training at St. John's School of Nursing, Huron, South Dakota, from which she will graduate in 1960.

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Jake J. Hofer

Jake J. Hofer came to Sully County in 1919. Edna Unruh, who later became his wife, came to Sully County in 1926 with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Abe Unruh. Jake and Edna were married November 19, 1933, at Yale, South Dakota, shortly after the first big dust storm, the worst that most people had ever seen, and settled on the farm in Blaine Township where they reside at the present time. The house was moved in from Agar and has been remodeled and modernized.

There are five children in the family, none of which are married. Shirley was born in 1936, and at the present time is



Mr. and Mrs. Jake J. Hofer celebrate their 25th Wedding Anniversary in 1958.

employed by J. C. Penny Company at Pierre. Arlys was born in 1939, and has been employed at the Onida Bank for the past year. Dean is a freshman in Onida High School; Gary is in the third grade at Blaine School, and Debra is two and a half years old. One child, a baby boy, died in 1934.

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Joe S. Hofer

Joe S. Hofer and Elizabeth Wipf were married on July 7, 1921, in Beadle County, and moved to Sully County five days later. They lived with his brother, John J. and his wife, Mary, in Blaine Township for a few months. That fall they moved to the Lister place where their oldest son, Jake, was born in 1922.

The following year the family of three moved to South Buffalo Township where they built the home in which the next four of the children were born: Valeria, in 1923; Eddie, in 1925; Wilbur, in 1927, and Loretta, in 1930. The family lived in several places during the next fifteen years; Minnesota among them where Marzella was born in 1935. The family moved to Onida in 1947 where they are living at the present time.

Loretta was the victim of severe burns by fire in 1948. A can of gas, which she was holding, was ignited by a fire in the wood range close by. She suffered third degree burns, and the house was badly damaged by the flames.

All of the children, with the exception of Loretta, were at one time in the service of their country with the armed forces. Of the seven children, a baby girl died in 1938, and four are now married. Valeria was married in 1945 to F. M. Ellis. They now reside in Arvada, Colorado, and have four children. Loretta was married to Glen Stokes in 1948. They now reside in a home on the James Sutton ranch, and have four children. Wilbur married Eileen Sack in 1950. They now have two children and live in Onida where Wilbur is manager of the Peavey Lumber Yard. Eddie married Jenny Naanes Jackson in 1953, and they have four children and reside on a farm owned by John J. Hofer, east of Onida. Jake is living at home and is an employee of the railroad. Marzella is in Minot, North Dakota, training for work in evangelism.

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Josh J. Hofer

Josh J. Hofer and his wife, Mary, came to Sully County in 1924, and settled on a farm known as the Kinder place. There was no house on the farm at that time, so Josh and Mary lived in what is now the barn until they could start building, which was the following year.

Their four children were born at this place. Pearl was born in 1926; Virgil, in 1932; LaVon, in 1934, and Carol, in 1939.

In 1940, the family moved to the Lula B. Dakan farm where they lived until 1944, and then moved to a farm just outside of Onida where they now live. They remodeled the house and put in new fixtures, and added a steel quonset to the buildings already on the place.

Their oldest daughter, Pearl, was married in 1946 to Arnold Asmussen and they had two children, Jim and Wayne. Arnold and the two men with him were killed in 1951, when the plane they were flying crashed in the heavy fog over the state of Washington. Pearl and her boys lived at home until 1953, when she married Benny Fauth, who had three children. The family now reside on a farm at Emery, South Dakota.

Virgil is not married as yet, and is



Van Ludwig home in 1909. Left to right — Mrs. Van Ludwig (Alice) and daughter, Pauline; Van Ludwig and son, Clarence, and two hired men. To the far right — Corydon and Ralph Ludwig.

living at home and farming with his father. LaVon became Mrs. Myron Vetter in 1954. They lived in a trailer house on the Vetter place until they built the new home in which they now live with their one son, Danny. Carol married Lloyd Dale in 1958. They now live in Denver, Colorado, and have one child.



Van Ludwig Family

Van Ludwig, of Oakwood, Illinois, son-in-law of B. M. Lister, arrived with a carload of household goods in March of 1906. Mrs. Ludwig and three children, Corydon, Ralph and Pauline, remained in Illinois until April when they joined their husband and father. They lived on the Lister farm in Blaine Township for three years and it was during that time that Clarence was born, September 16, 1907.

The Ludwigs then built a home on the Northeast of 19, which was just a piece of raw land which they improved. Here the family grew up.

Van was an ambitious and progressive farmer. In August, 1916, he installed a milking machine on his farm — the first of its kind in Sully County — and established himself as one of the leading and most successful dairy farmers. He also purchased a new three-horse gasoline engine to run his milking machine.

Corydon married Ava Phillips, of Blunt, South Dakota, on December 4, 1925. They lived on the Lister farm for sixteen and a half years and it was during that time that their three daughters, Beverly, Betty and Berniece, were born. They then purchased a farm in Richvalley Township from Judge C. Roberts, of Pierre, where they now reside.

Beverly was married to Phil Zebroski on August 1, 1951. They have four children, Tom, Tim, Twana and Trena. The family lived on the Beckman farm,



Mr. and Mrs. Van Ludwig at the State Fair in 1910.



Corydon and Ralph Ludwig attending the State Fair in 1914.

south of Onida, for a short time and then moved to the Clarence Ludwig ranch near Okobojo where they are now living. Betty was married to Pierre Barnes, of Pierre, on October 11, 1958. They live on a farm about six miles east of Blunt. On August 30, 1957, Berniece was married to Larry Kiel, of Highmore, South Dakota. They lived in Minnesota the first year they were married and then came back to the Corydon Ludwig farm and are assisting with farm work there. They have one daughter, Kami, born July 1, 1958.

Ralph Ludwig married May Finney, of Faulkton, South Dakota, in 1930. They lived in and near Onida for the first years of their married life, then on the home place for a short time before purchasing the Bauman General Store in Onida. They retired from the mercantile business in 1956. They are now living in Huron where they purchased the Isabelle Motel. Their three children, Phyllis, Leona and Keith are married.

Phyllis was married to Darrel Mikelsen, of Onida, in October, 1949. They have two daughters, Cindy and Mona. The family now lives in Huron. Leona married Charles Morris, from the state of Tennessee, in October, 1953. They have three children, Allan, Billy and Karla. The family is now stationed in Germany. During the time that Keith was in the service, he married a girl from Harrington, Delaware.

Pauline Ludwig was married to Everett Stewart, of Blunt, in March of 1931. They have four children, Darwin, Judy, Van and Sandra. After living west of Blunt for some time and operating a filling station, they moved to Onida where Everett was engaged in various businesses. In 1955, he established an implement and gas business, together with his sons, which is known as Stewart & Son Implement. Everett passed away on August, 31, 1957. The business is being carried on by his wife, Pauline, sons Darwin and Van, and son-in-law, Jack Schall.

Darwin married Coletta Sack on August 30, 1955. He was in the service, but after the death of his father, he and his family came back to Onida to help with the business. Three children were born to this union, Kim, Pam and Dianne Lynn. Judy Stewart was married on June 15, 1955, to Jack Schall. They lived on the Clarence Ludwig ranch near Okobojo for a short time and then moved to Onida where Jack is assisting with the Stewart & Sons business. They have three children, Dawn, Monica and Jacqueline. Van Stewart is a senior in Onida High School and also helps with the family business. Sandra is in the seventh grade.

Clarence Ludwig married Cecile Kleinschmidt on October 12, 1930, and they lived on the home place with his father. One son, Newell, was born. Mrs. Ludwig passed away on January 18, 1935. Then four years later, on December 31, 1938, Clarence married Hazel Sorenson, of Lincoln Township. Three children were born to this union, Karen, Kay and Martin.

On February 14, 1942, Van Ludwig passed away. Mrs. Ludwig then moved to Onida where she still resides.

Except for a short period of time, Clarence has lived on the Van Ludwig farm since it was built. The only original building on the farm at the present time is the house which has been remodeled and enlarged. Two other buildings have been replaced and new structures and trees added to the farm.

Newell Ludwig who is assisting his father with the farming operations, was married on June 8, 1958, to Lila Blaisdell, of Onida. Karen is a junior and Kay, a sophomore at Onida High School. Both



The L. P. Nelson Family, about 1908. Standing, left to right — Charles, Mrs. L. P. Nelson, L. P. Nelson, Ed and Andrew. Seated — Wilfred, Emma, (Mrs. Lister), Otto, Luther and George.

the girls graduated from the eighth grade at Blaine School. Martin, a sixth grader, is now attending Blaine School.



The Nelson Family

Charles was the first of the Nelson family to migrate to this country from Sweden in 1878. Stopping in Boston, he worked in an iron foundry until he saved enough money to send back and bring the entire family here, which then included his parents, Lars and Augusta, his sister, Emma, and his five brothers, Edwin, Andrew, Wilfred, Otto and Luther.

Docking at New York, the Nelson family boarded a train for Chicago, arriving there on April 1, 1881. Securing employment in a Pullman factory, they stayed for about a year and then moved to Spink County, South Dakota, where they filed on a pre-emption and lived there a short time.

Hearing about the homestead and tree claims, and needing a larger acreage, they made the trip overland from Hitchcock, South Dakota, by ox team in the fall of 1883, and filed on the homestead, Northwest of 28-114-76, in Blaine Township.

One of the first necessities was building a home which consisted of a three room sod house in which the entire family lived for about six years. Interest-

ing is the fact that the youngest child, George, was born in that sod house which was about forty feet from his present home.

The original quarter section was a homestead and joining to the north was a tree claim quarter on which the government required ten acres of trees to be planted and cared for. The younger children had the task of helping with this tree planting job which required considerable time and effort.

About 1900, Charles moved to Bowdle, South Dakota, where he farmed and operated several threshing rigs during the harvest season. Later he returned to the old homestead where he spent his remaining years.

Wilfred and Edwin Nelson moved to North Dakota and built up a fine improved farm near Sykeston. Wilfred plowed fire guards around many townships in Sully County and in North Dakota. He married and had three daughters and one son, all living in North Dakota. The son, Dave, lives on the original place. Edwin Nelson also built a farm near his brother where he resided until his death.

Andrew Nelson finally settled in Pleasant Township, running a large herd of cattle and many horses. He dug many wells by hand, some 100 feet deep, and experienced several close calls. He married Jennie Breke and five children were born to them. Those living are

Lyle, Floyd and Emma. Lyle, who married Jessie Mason, owns and operates a large ranch in Cora Township. They have a son, Paul, and raised another boy, Dwayne, who is married and also lives on the ranch. Floyd is a drawbridge operator in Portland, Oregon; and Emma, who married Paul Randall, lives in Hot Springs, Arkansas, where they operate several Super Markets.

Emma Nelson spent her entire girlhood in Blaine Township, assisting her mother in the household work. After graduating from Madison Normal, she taught several Sully County schools before becoming county superintendent of schools, which position she held for several terms. She married B. M. Lister, himself an early pioneer of Blaine Township. They had one daughter, Dorothy, who is married to Glen Patterson, an attorney in Watertown, South Dakota. The Pattersons have a son and daughter. Emma was chairman of the committee who published the History of Sully County in 1939.

Otto Nelson spent his entire life in Sully County. At one time he operated the King Ranch, starting one mile east of Onida and covering many acres, and ran many head of fine cattle. After some time this ranch was sold out into several smaller ranches. He then operated on a smaller scale in Blaine for many years. In August of 1942, he was fatally injured, while asleep, by a freak tornado in Iowa Township.

Luther Nelson also spent all of his life in Sully County. He helped operate and manage the family farm for years. He married Bessie Coquillette and they had one son, Wayne. Luther's wife passed away when Wayne was two years old after which they lived with Grandma Nelson for 12 years. In 1924, Luther married Ereka Eller. They bought the old Dave Hall place just across the road from the homestead and lived there until they moved to Onida in 1943, where they still reside.

Wayne lives on a farm joining Onida city. This place is known as the old Barber place. He and Luther continue to operate their Blaine holdings. Wayne married Sady Bingamen of Olivet, South Dakota, and they have one daughter, Julie, who is married to Jim Sutton of Onida. They have two children, Teri and Steven.

George Nelson, the youngest of the original Nelsons is celebrating his 75th birthday during this Jubilee year. In 1912, he was married to Elva Hyde, daughter of Dwight W. Hyde, of Goodwater Township, himself one of the early pioneers. They have three daughters, Marcia, Patricia and Benni Bee, and a son, Dean. Marcia is married to Dr. Robert H. Lamb, an orthopedic surgeon from Troy, Alabama. They live in Salt Lake City, Utah, and have four daughters. Patricia is married to Colonel Henry A. Smith Jr. from Tuscaloosa, Alabama, head of the 147th Artillery Group of the South Dakota National Guard. They have three daughters, and one son and live in Onida. Benni Bee is married to Marvon Severson, formerly of Onida. They have a daughter and a son and live in Cleveland, Minnesota, where they own and operate a Super Market. Dean is married to Harriet Adams of Gettysburg, South Dakota. They have two daughters and one son and live on the original homestead helping operate the farm, thus making Dean's son the fourth generation of Nelsons to continuously live on the same homestead.

It would not be complete without mentioning another near-member of the family. With the exception of two school terms as Dean of the Boys Dormitory in Onida in 1933 and 1934, Matt Glanzer has lived with the Nelson family for 33 years, helping operate the place. Watching and helping George's four children grow up, he is now a favorite playmate of their children whenever they are around.



George Mathew Nelson, three-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Dean Nelson, taken in 1956, with his namesake, Matt Glanzer, who has been with the Nelson family for 33 years.



Mr. and Mrs. Jerry M. Pullman and 10 of their children, in 1918. Back row, left to right — Susie, Dave, Joe, Jerry, Jr., and Eli. Front row — Mrs. Pullman, Ben, Jake, Mary, Barbara, Anna and Mr. Pullman.

The Pullman Family

Mr. and Mrs. Jerry M. Pullman came to Blaine Township in 1919, from Huron, South Dakota, and purchased the Clayton Gunsalus farm. They lived there until 1937, when they moved to Onida. Then in 1941, Mr. and Mrs. Pullman and seven of their children moved to Freeman, South Dakota. Mr. Pullman passed away in 1945, and Mrs. Pullman is still living in Freeman.

Five of the Pullman children remained in Sully County. Mary Pullman was married to John J. Hofer in 1919. Joe married Mary Hofer in 1922, and they live in Lincoln Township with their family. Susie married Paul Stahl, of Yale, South Dakota. They lived in the house now occupied by the Walter Ripley family. The Stahls had five children, Willard, Francis, Albin, Bernette and Jerald (Woody). Albin is married to Helen Youngberg and they have two daughters, Julie and Janet. Mrs. Stahl (Susie) passed away in 1939. Dave Pullman married Alma Walter in 1938, and they had two children, Dennis and Sandra. Eli married Edyth Haessig, of Mellette, South Dakota, in October, 1943. Their son, Billy, is a student at Northern State Teachers College, Aberdeen.



BLAINE SCHOOL

Blaine Township's first school was started in the home of David Hall, in the

spring of 1884. Mr. Hall rode horseback to Clifton and took a brief examination before Superintendent Staples, all that was required to give him the necessary credentials to teach. The equipment and supplies were typical of those pioneer days — home-made desks, a blackboard, a miscellaneous collection of books, broom, dust pan, waterpail and dipper, or tin cups, and a coal bucket. Those first three months of school cost \$73.30.

As the county became more settled, the school population likewise increased. In time a decision was made to consolidate and in January, 1921, the district voted unanimously to bond itself for a \$15,000 school building.

Work commenced in May, 1921, by the Onida Construction Company. Formal dedication of the building took place on September 27, 1921, during the session of the annual Teacher's Institute. The exercises were held in the large assembly room and attended by all of the



Blaine School, 1921



Blaine Basketball Team in 1922. Back row, left to right — Theron McKenney, Wayne Nelson and Harold McKenney. Front row — Joe Mendell and Jake Pullman.

teachers of the Institute and many others from near and far, who had watched with intense interest the development of this project. Jesse T. Hayes acted as master of ceremonies; Mrs. B. M. Lister gave the history of Blaine; M. M. Guhin spoke on the value of good school organization and buildings, and Dr. Carey expressed the

values to be gained as a community center. The program closed with the audience singing and being led in several school yells for Blaine with Homer Roach as cheerleader.

The teachers of this new school were Ereka (Eller) Nelson and Mrs. Mable Jack.

Luther Nelson, Henry Hertel and J. R. Dakan did a great deal toward this project.

In 1922, Mr. and Mrs. Carlos Westower were the teachers and at that time Blaine was accredited to teach one year of high school. In 1926, two years of high school were taught and a third teacher, Miss Fern Johnson, was added to the faculty.

Blaine School was the first school in Sully County to meet all requirements for state aid.

Since 1930, only one teacher has been employed at Blaine.

From the beginning, basketball was practiced in the basement gymnasium of the school and in the surrounding area.

In 1925, a Blaine Central Independent team was organized. The team was composed of Elezer Byrum, center; Eli Pullman and David Pullman, forwards; Clarence Ludwig and Joe Roddewig, guards. — M. S.



First pupils and teachers at Blaine, 1921. Back row, left to right — Ereka (Eller) Nelson, Jake Pullman, Harold McKenney, Joe Mendel, Theron McKenney, Wayne Nelson, Barbara Pullman and Mrs. Mable Jack. Middle row — Vance McKenney, Anna Pullman, Marcella Hertel, Neva Dakan and Beatrice Hertel. Front row — Burnette Hertel, Jean Hertel, Edwin Pullman, Eddie Waldner, Alice Dakan, Anna Wipf, Clara Wipf, Arlene Hertel and Edwin Waldner.

BUFFALO TOWNSHIP



Fred E. Leverett. First Homesteader in Buffalo Township.

Buffalo bones whitened the prairie which is known as Buffalo Township and which was so named in memory of the previous inhabitants. Naming and organizing of township 114-75 took place in 1883, by the first school board composed of J. B. Gleason, who settled in that vicinity in April, 1883, H. Brayton and H. M. DeTray. The first school was taught during the summer of 1884, by Miss Hallie Chalfant in a 12x14 foot shack belonging

to William Garner. Later this shack became the property of Gleason and was destroyed by the cyclone in 1888.

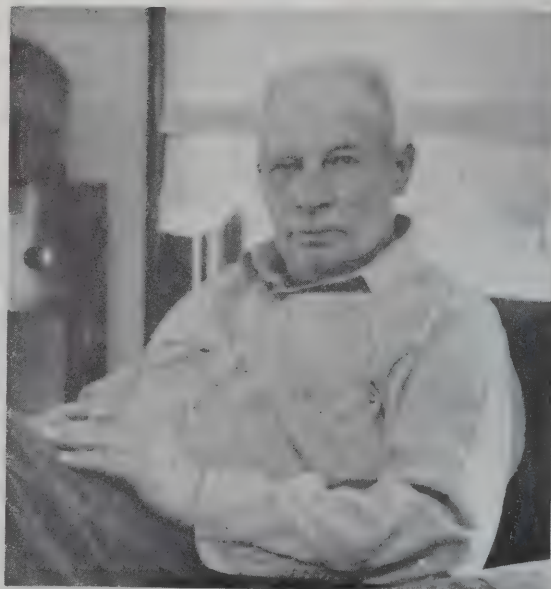
The first home filing was made by Fred Leverett on March 4, 1883, who married Miss Gertrude Boone at Table Rock, Nebraska, on April 3, 1894. To this union, six children were born, three sons and three daughters.

By June of 1883, homes had been erected by settlers on most quarter sections of the township which had an abundance of good quality water, plenty of grass and land that was level except along the east side.

The first postoffice was established in July, 1884, on Section 33. The first child born in the township was Lotta Gleason, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Gleason, on September 10, 1884. Two new schoolhouses were erected in 1885, and L. D. Carr became the first superintendent of schools elected in the county.



The Winklers



Frank Winkler

The old J. F. Gunsalus place was purchased in the fall of 1917, by Philip Winkler, who had rented it for six years previous to that date. A new house was built in 1933, when the old one was destroyed by fire. Mr. Winkler passed away in 1934, and his wife in 1957. Their oldest son, Frank, remains on the place which is located on the Northwest of 27.



Children of Mr. and Mrs. Fred E. Leverett.
Back row, left to right — Lucille, Robert and Florence Front row — Glenn, Maurine and Edward.

Emma Kubichek. Celebrating her 100th Birthday Anniversary at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Philip Winkler, on February, 27, 1938.



The Wipf Family

Mr. and Mrs. Abe Unruh live on the place formerly owned by Clyde Gunsalus. Several families came and went, among them was Sam S. Wipf, now of Bridgewater, South Dakota, until the present occupants bought the place in 1926. Son, Harvey, lives on an adjoining farm, having erected new buildings. His wife is the former Gladys Goosen, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Goosen. They too, live nearby on the Southwest of section 8, having bought and built up their place in 1925. Their oldest son, LeRoy, answered the call to Service for his country and was lost in action during the Korean Conflict. Another son, Elmer, and his wife, Joan Glassmaker, live on a neighboring farm, owned by the Mosiman brothers.



The Butzman Family

Paul Butzman and Freida Klingbeil, daughter of the late Julius Klingbeil of Lake Township, were married in 1936, and together shared responsibilities until death claimed Mr. Butzman in 1954. Freida and their two sons, Robert and Norman, still live on the home place. Oscar Butzman lives near by on the old home place built in 1918, by the late Edward Butzman, father of Oscar and Paul. Mr. and Mrs. Duane Winkler occupy a trailer house on this place and help with farming operations.

Durrstein - Thomas Ranches

Mr. and Mrs. William Durrstein and Mr. and Mrs. Harry Thomas and son, Alvin, age five, and daughter, Ednamae, two years old, came here from Doland, South Dakota, and purchased the Walter Schieckoff land. In 1919, Durrstein and Thomas purchased the Northwest of Section 10 from E. W. Smith. This land was barren of buildings so a house was moved there from the original Durrstein and Thomas ranch down on the flat several miles east. An artesian well was put down and several new buildings were erected in 1926.

When Durrstein and Thomas dissolved partnership in 1928, Harry Thomas took over the place. He lived only a few months after that, passing away in January, 1929, following a brief illness. Mrs. Thomas and her three children — another daughter, Marian, was born in May, 1924 — moved back to Doland for several years during which time the Harley Lemon family occupied the farm. Then in 1933, Mrs. Thomas and her children moved back to Sully County and with the help of her son, Alvin, took over the farm once again.

Alvin and Genevieve Bandy were married in 1936, and the following year Alvin's mother had a house moved into town where she and her daughter, Marian, lived until Mrs. Thomas passed away in March, 1951. The Alvin Thomas family lived on the home place all these years, with the exception of six years when they purchased the old Hayes place in Pleasant



The Alvin Thomas Family. Front row, left to right — Mr. and Mrs. Thomas, Barbara and Darlene. Back row — Deanna (Mrs. Lyle Sutton), Harry and Jerry.

Township. Many improvements have been made on the Thomas farm and the house has been completely modernized. All five of the Thomas children attended North Buffalo School; namely, Deanna (now Mrs. Lyle Sutton), Harry, Jerry, Barbara and Darlene.

In 1929, Mr. and Mrs. S. W. Schieckoff moved here from Ontario, Canada, and lived on the Durrstein-Thomas ranch until 1950, when they became the owners of their present farm which they purchased from Alfred Rivenes. This farm was originally the property of Jake S. Tschetter, now of Huron, South Dakota. During the intervening years, it was occupied at different times by various families — the Joe L. Hofers, Ira McKenneys and the W. L. Jordans. The Schieckoffs built a new house on the place and added other improvements. The Alfred Rivenes' now reside in Rapid City, South Dakota.

Lewis Schmitgen and his wife, the former Dorothy Schieckoff, live on the Durrstein ranch. Although both Mr. and Mrs. Durrstein have passed on, the property belongs to their daughter, Marjorie, now Mrs. Richard Herrman of Denver, Colorado. She also owns the family residence in Onida.

The Huffmans

Mr. and Mrs. Jake G. Hofer live on the place originally built by Sylvester S. Huffman, who passed away in 1915 at the age of 70. Possession of the land and occupants changed several times.



Roy Clark

Roy Clark came to Sully County in 1931 and made his home in Richvalley Township with the Jess Clark family. He served two years in the army and was married in 1946. Mr. and Mrs. Clark moved to the H. L. Huffman place in 1954. Mrs. Clark is the former Florence Gugin, daughter of Rev. and Mrs. J. F. Gugin, who held services at the South Buffalo School for several years in the late thirties. Rev. Gugin passed away in 1954, in Seattle, Washington. Mrs. Gugin has been living in Danville, Illinois. The Clark farm was purchased from Ben Klingbeil by the Gugins and after the Huffmans left other families living there were the Ralph Harringtons of Harrold, South Dakota, the Crawfords and John Oshels'. The Harvey Huffmans were residents here for many years and farmed

extensively until they moved to Rapid City in 1946.

☆ ☆ ☆
The Jake Walters

Jake and Mildred Walter live on the home place belonging to her father, A. A. Haub. Mr. Haub moved here from Illinois in 1917, first settling on what is now the B. W. Yackley farm. Then after six years, moved to the present location of the Walters. Mrs. Haub and an infant daughter were laid to rest in 1926, leaving five children. At this writing, Mr. Haub is hale and hearty at 80 and lives in Sioux Falls. The Walters have lived at their present location since 1942.

☆ ☆ ☆
Mike Mileusnich Farm

Mike Mileusnich has resided on the Southwest of 23 since 1923. He married Martha Klingbeil, daughter of the late Julius Klingbeil of Lake Township, in 1928. Their only son, George, is married to the former Nancy Merrill and they live in Onida.

☆ ☆ ☆
The B. W. Yackley Family

Mr. and Mrs. B. W. Yackley were married in 1928, and for a few months thereafter lived with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frank J. Yackley, in Richvalley

Township. The young couple then had their own home and lived on the original Frank Yackley place for about seven years. They then moved on the Judge Roberts place, now owned by Corydon Ludwig, and lived there until 1941, when they purchased the original McArthur homestead, Section 33. The Yackleys modernized the house and made many building improvements, and have since acquired the land adjoining them to the west which formally belonged to J. F. Klatt. Mr. Klatt lived on the west farm for many years and was widely known as a blacksmith.

Ben and Vi Yackley have seven children: Patricia (Mrs. E. J. Whatley) lives in Garden Grove, California, with her husband and two children; Richard lives in Lemmon Grove, California, and has four children, two of which are twins; Joanne (Mrs. H. W. Brownell) has a daughter, Annette, and lives in Savannah, Georgia, with her family; Jerome (Bud) lives in Onida and has five children; Bob is attending State College at Brookings, and Helen and Lois are students at Onida High School.

☆ ☆ ☆
The Schmitgen Farm

Stanley and Edna Foth live on the Northwest of 23 which was originally her



The B. W. Yackley Family. Left to right — Lois, Helen, Bob, Jerome (Bud), Joanne (Mrs. H. M. Brownell), Richard, Patricia (Mrs. E. J. Whatley), Mr. Yackley (Ben) and Mrs. Yackley (Vi). Taken about 1947.

parents place, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Schmitgen who settled there about 1917. Mr. Schmitgen passed away in 1943, and his wife in 1945. Stanley, or Bill, as he is known to his friends, worked on the police force in Pierre, South Dakota, before taking over the farm in 1953. Alvin Schmitgen, a brother of Edna's, makes his home with the Foths and helps with farming operations. Tony Schmitgen has resided on the Southwest of 11 since 1919, having built up the present home. A son, David, helps with the farming. Frances Schmitgen, a niece, keeps house for her uncle and cousin.

The old Beck place, on the Southwest of 24, has changed hands many times through the years, and is now owned by Hilmer Yeager.

Henry Meyers, who has been here for a number of years, is located on the Southwest of 35 and owns and operates his farm. His sister, Mrs. Pat Palmer, makes her home with him.

In 1925, Joe S. Hofer built up the place now owned by Clifford Lehmkuhl, a bachelor.

Jake and Bonnie Unruh live on the Northwest of 17, which belongs to his father, Pete Unruh. A former owner was Jake Decker, now deceased.

The O. E. McArthur family were old-time settlers in Buffalo Township, later moving to Lake Township. Mrs. McArthur was often an "Angel of Mercy" in those early days when she cared for the sick and needy in that area, often spending days at a time taking care of those around her. The McArthur's only child, Adeline, now Mrs. G. C. Reynolds, has also contributed a great deal of her time and energy to others of the younger generation. She was a capable 4-H Club leader for many years and served as superintendent and teacher of a Sunday School held in the South Buffalo schoolhouse. During these years, Rev. Edwin F. Walter also ministered at this Sunday School.

Many improvements have been made in Buffalo Township through the years. The major ones being roads and rural electrification to every home. A long-awaited dream of telephones became a reality in the fall of 1956. Many dams and dugouts have been constructed in effective areas to hold water in pastures for watering livestock. Many of these dams have been stocked with fish and furnish

pleasant recreation for fisherman. One big project was building the Durrstein Dam in the early thirties with PWA labor which employed approximately 200 men from that area. This project was accomplished by hand labor, using picks and shovels, and horse-powered wagons under the foremanship of Ike Huffman.

Most everyone in the township owns his own home and the population remains fairly stable. The South Buffalo School was closed in the fall of 1958; however, the North Buffalo School remains open. At the present time there are four girls attending this school; namely, Barbara and Darlene Thomas, Edith Clark and Jeanie Walter. Mrs. Ralph Campbell has been the teacher since 1956. She is the former Opal Hofer, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joe G. Hofer, living in Fairview Township. Building of North Buffalo and South Buffalo schools was a result of a divided township which took place years ago.



CLIFTON TOWNSHIP

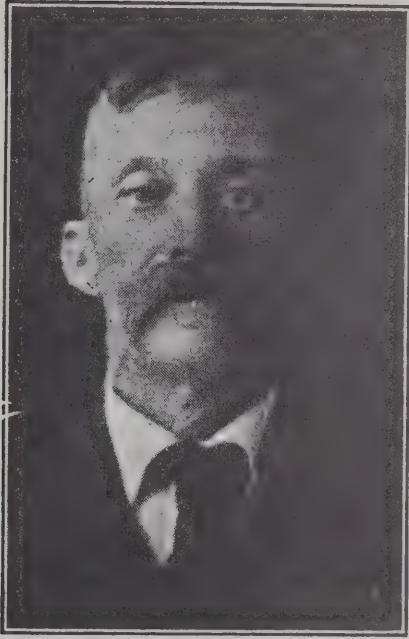
There are still a few of the original Clifton Township families living in Onida and surrounding area of Sully County — John Adams and his sister, Mrs. Bertha Haverly; Mrs. Janet Chamberlain and daughter, LaVonne, and the Goddards, the two Walsh brothers and their sister, Margaret, and others.

Many of the first settlers moved out of the county and many out of South Dakota, such as J. C. Thompson, J. A. Terwilliger, the Prichards, the Snow family, the Botsfords, Kenneys, Meloons, the Backus family, the Petersons, Ekes, Slaters and many others.



The Adams Family

Daniel Adams came to Sully County from Cedar County, Iowa, on May 27, 1883. Mr. Adams had visited South Dakota in the fall of 1882, and was met at Blunt by the usual number of land agents, who located him land in the southern part of Sully County which was not then on the market, but on which he made Squatter's Claim, expecting to return in time to make filing early in March, when the land came on the market. But heavy snow prevented him from returning at the appointed time, and when he did arrive in Blunt, later in March, with his car



Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Adams. Pioneers of Clifton Township.

of household goods, machinery and livestock, he found someone had jumped his claim. He then filed on both Tree Claim and Pre-emption in Clifton Township. His wife could not come with him, but followed a short time later. Mr. and Mrs. Adams were married at Douney, Iowa, on March 6, 1881.

Mr. Adams broke prairie with a single walking plow, and planted corn and oats. They also planted a garden the first year and raised a nice crop of vegetables.

Mr. and Mrs. Adams lived in a three room house and their stable was built of sod with a hay roof. Later a more comfortable home was built and the sod barn was replaced by one of lumber.

They continued to live on the farm until Mr. Adam's failing health caused them to move to Onida in 1910, where they lived in the house now occupied by the Joe Wargo family. Mr. Adams passed away in 1916. Mrs. Adams continued to live in Onida until her passing in 1947.

The Adams' had two children, Bertha and John. Bertha was born on June 4, 1884. Her first teacher was Minnie Porter, who still lives in Pasadena, California. She is an aunt of Glenn Porter of Onida. Bertha taught school in Hartford and Richvalley Townships. She married Minor J. Haverly on May 24, 1906.

John was born on December 31, 1886. He lived on the home farm until



Homestead of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Adams, Clifton Township, in 1886. Note the sod barn to the right of the house.



John Adams

his parents moved to Onida in 1910, and continued to live there after his marriage to Estella Downing, of Peoria, Illinois, which occurred on February 18, 1911. Their daughter, Sylvia, was born March 4, 1913, while living on this farm. In 1914, they moved to Onida where John engaged in the implement and hardware business. He had taken a course in mechanics at Omaha, Nebraska, several years before. He continued in this business for many years. His wife passed away at Rochester, Minnesota, on October 26, 1937. Their daughter, Sylvia, married Floyd Schenk of Yankton, South Dakota, and they have a daughter, Janet.

John served many years as a member of the city council. He is affiliated with and a past master of Onida Lodge No. 173, and served as the Grand Master's District Deputy for this District for three years. He is also a member of the Huron Chapter and Commandery and a member of Yelduz Temple, of Aberdeen.

During the years John was an implement dealer, he became interested and active in the affairs of the South Dakota Retail Implement Dealer's Association, serving as president and member of the board of directors. In 1940, he was ap-

pointed secretary-manager of that Association and served them for fifteen years. Eight years of that time were spent in Huron. Retiring in 1953, the Implement Association Convention in Huron voted him a life-time membership on the Advisory Board as a reward for having assisted in building it into the largest Retail Organization in the state.

After John's retirement, he came back to Onida and built a home on his farm land two miles south of Onida where he now lives.

Since John is one of Sully County's original "old-timers", his memory takes him back many years, and he has numerous recollections of the old days. He remembers the famous "County Seat Quarrel" between Clifton and Onida. After Onida finally won the battle, Clifton began to dwindle away. At one time, Clifton was a fair-sized city, even having a small college one half mile east of town. The last person to leave Clifton was a harness maker by the name of J. Henry, who was also the last Postmaster in Clifton. John and his sister, Bertha, were the last ones to get mail from the Clifton Postoffice, and Mr. Henry left the next day. The last building to remain at Clifton was the schoolhouse and John and his father helped move it to its present location which is five miles west of Onida and three and one half miles south.

John remembers the first time he had ever seen our American Flag was the sight of it flying atop the flag pole at the northwest corner of the Parade Ground at Fort Sully. He was at the Fort with his father when the Fort was abandoned and the horses and equipment sold, and again the next year when the buildings were sold. Many of the buildings from the old Fort were moved away by John's father. Several of these buildings are still serving Sully County families on their farms.

John remembers the Wounded Knee Massacre and the Indian scares which were prevalent during the early days and the time that Sitting Bull sat down for the last time, and was shot. He also helped deliver the first death message of a South Dakota boy in the Spanish American War. It came to Blunt and was sent to the Adams' place by a traveler and John rode horseback to the Tom Goddard place to deliver it. He remembers that it read, "Jim Goddard died this morning.

Tell his people and prepare for his reception."

Mr. Adams remains active in civic and social affairs in Sully County, and since his retirement has had more time to pursue his activities as an avid sportsman. Feeding wild fowl is one of his hobbies, and his premises is a haven for pheasants and a beautiful sight to behold as the colorful birds leisurely feed and strut around as though they were the sole owners of the premises.



The Chamberlain Family

Frank M. Chamberlain came to Sully County in 1884, took a homestead on the Southwest of Section 27, in Clifton Township, and then sent to Illinois for his wife, Fannie, and small son, Wallace. Fannie, as she was known to all her friends, was a lady of culture and refinement, and to come to the wilds of this country at that time was truly a trying situation, but being of a staunch character and strong Baptist faith, she soon became a community leader.

After moving to Sully County, Mr. and Mrs. Chamberlain had five more children—Luther, Jessie, Henry, Clarence and Florence, who all grew to man and womanhood in this county. Being a firm believer in education, Mrs. Chamber-

lain saw to it that each child received some college education.

During the season of 1902, Mr. Chamberlain raised, harvested and threshed 1500 bushels of No. 1 wheat, 200 bushels of macaroni wheat, 800 bushels of oats, 600 bushels of barley and 100 bushels of broome grass seed, worth at least \$3.00 a bushel. He also raised 200 bushels of potatoes, 10 acres of corn and 40 acres millet, besides putting up a large quantity of hay for wintering his stock. Mr. Chamberlain was one of the hard working farmers of the county and the above is an example of what could be produced in Sully County on the best cheap land on the market.

Of this pioneer family, the father, mother, sons Wallace and Luther, and daughter Jessie have passed away and all are buried in the Onida Cemetery. Henry lives on a cattle ranch near Pierre, and Clarence and Florence moved to California during the 1930 depression and still reside in Los Angeles.

Henry Chamberlain and his wife, Ona Nelson, had two daughters and a son. Frances, the older daughter, married Boyd Bloom and they live in Pierre. Harriet married Will Brown and they run the Ben Franklin store in Pierre. Kenneth lives with his parents on the ranch out of Pierre.



Mr. and Mrs. Frank M. Chamberlain. Pioneers of Clifton Township.

Jessie Chamberlain grew to womanhood and homesteaded on the land now known as the George Becker farm. She was a school teacher for a number of years. She married Walter Hunsley and they had three sons — Maurice, who was drowned in the Missouri River, Clement, of Fort Pierre, and Lyle, who married Annis Alleman, of Pierre.

Luther Chamberlain was married to Janet Robinson and they had one daughter, LaVonne. Janet is Sully County Treasurer and LaVonne is employed in the ASC office. They live in Onida where they recently built a new home.



The Goddards

Mr. and Mrs. R. S. Goddard were born and raised in Sully County, married and raised seven children — Frank, Thoma, Guy, Worth, Delmar, Claire and Roberta. The first four of the children attended 12 years of school in Sully County. Four of the five boys served in World War II.

In 1917, Mr. and Mrs. Goddard made a down payment on a grass quarter of land, the Southeast of 33-114-78, in Clifton Township. Mr. Goddard dug a well and built a house the summer of 1918, and that is when the family moved into Clifton Township. Although retired, they still live there. Mr. Goddard has been a commissioner of Sully County for 20 years.

Frank and Delmar Goddard formed a partnership in 1946, and built a house and other buildings on the Northeast of 33, and it was here that Mr. and Mrs. Delmar Goddard began their married life. Mrs. Goddard is the former Roxanna Heuer, who was born and raised in Sully County and attended 12 years of school here. The Goddards have seven children — Vaughn, Arletta, Cecelia, Rhea, Don, Robert and Roberta. Mrs. Goddard's father, Henry Heuer, is now living in a trailer house in their yard. Mr. Heuer is an old timer in Sully County coming here in 1904. He built several houses in Onida and vicinity, and then in 1913, he discontinued the carpenter trade and started farming. He retired at the age of 82 and moved to his daughter's place.

Frank (Bud) Goddard was married in 1949. He and his wife built up a place

across the road from the Delmar Goddard farm. Mr. and Mrs. Bud Goddard have two sons, Joe and Lee.



There are fourteen pupils attending the Clifton School at the present time, representing seven families — Delmar Ripleys, Lyle Hunsleys, Lyle Eberts, Wilson Evans', Arlen Kilpatricks, Delmar Goddards and Frank Goddards.

Mr. and Mrs. Delmar Ripley have five children — Douglas, Darwin, Thomas, Barny and Merlin. Mrs. Ripley is the former Deloris Weischedel. She was born and raised in Sully County and received her 12 years of schooling in the county.

Mr. and Mrs. Lyle Hunsley have one son, Larry. Lyle was born in Hughes County, but has lived most of his life in Sully County. His wife is the former Annis Alleman. Lyle's father, Walter Hunsley, is one of Sully County's old timers, and at present is making his home on his son's farm, having a house in their yard.

Mr. and Mrs. Lyle Ebert are living on the old Wallace Chamberlain place. They have two daughters, Nancy and Carol. Mrs. Ebert is the former Beverly Spaid.

Mr. and Mrs. Wilson Evans moved to Sully County in 1951, from Texas, and purchased the George Becker farm. They have four children — W. H., Larry, Brian and Crista. Mrs. Evans taught the Clifton School for three years.

Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Kilpatrick and family live on the former Luther Chamberlain farm. After Mr. Chamberlain's death, the farm was sold to Lester Spaid, who later sold it to the Kilpatricks. They have three children, but Linda is the only one home.

Louis Spaid came to Sully County in 1935, and purchased a farm from the Federal Land Bank. Improvements on the farm include two quonsets, two wooden granaries, a new hog house, nine steel bins, several other new buildings and a modernized house. Mr. and Mrs. Spaid had three children — Beverly, Virginia and John. Mrs. Spaid passed away in 1954. Virginia and John now make their home with their father. Mr. Spaid is one of Sully County's largest wheat farmers.

Mr. and Mrs. Phil Seaman are Clifton's dairy farmers, having a dairy herd of 175 head. The Seamans have six children — Edward, Millard, Maynard Richard, Leonard and Claribel. Richard is in



Louis Spaid, (left) shown with Lester Spaid in one of the quonsets full of wheat in 1948.

partnership with his father and with the help of a hired man, they farm and milk an average of 75 cows daily. Richard married the former Rosella Pollman, who spent all of her school years in Sully County. They have three children — Barbara, Betty and Bradford.

Mr. and Mrs. Ted Baker came to Clifton Township in September of 1951. They came from Lubbock, Texas, where Mr. Baker was employed by the Santa Fe Railroad and Mrs. Baker worked for the Federal government. The Bakers purchased the land known as the Thomas Wolf place which consists of 2390 acres of land and operate the place as a ranch. They have one son, who, at the time they came to Sully County, was entering Medical School at the University of Texas in its branch at Dallas, from which he received his M.D. He is now in the Armed Services located in Augsburg, Germany.

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J. C. Thompson, one of the first settlers in Clifton Township in 1883, wrote from Honolulu on March 7, 1902, that after much traveling, if he were 20 years younger, he would return to South Dakota and engage in the stock business on the Missouri River. Mr. Thompson was

one of many who became discouraged in the early days and started out to seek a location where there was more comfort and money came easier than here in Sully County.

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Henry Chamberlain, John Adams and his sister, Mrs. Bertha Haverly, are the only living old-timers born in Clifton Township of early-day families.

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CORA TOWNSHIP

The first settlement in Cora Township was made in August, 1883, by James A. Stone, on what is now known as Stone Lake. Mr. Stone came to Cora Township primarily for the purpose of putting up hay for sale the coming spring. He was so well pleased with the location that he entered a homestead claim.

Minnie L. Corwith, who became the wife of James Stone, Pamela A. Stone and others entered claims on which they came to live in the spring of 1884.

John I. Campbell, Charles Bailey, Philip Walters and S. Green arrived in Cora Township on November 7, 1883, and November 9, the land was open for en-

that date, tree claims were entered in every section of the township. Mrs. Campbell was the first woman in the township, arriving there in December, 1883. She passed the winter without female companionship, in company with her husband and little son, Claude.

There were others arriving and experiencing many hardships during the coldest part of the winter of 1883. Some of them being William Reed, Moses Young, Anter Eder, W. I. Carver, William Roeckel, Ed Hackett and S. L. Dean.

With the spring came N. W. Porter and family, Louis Soper and brother, Chancy Haven, Chauncy Ferguson, John Seaman, Schofield Jeffrey, Daniel Schult, and Mary Warner. Also the Blizzard outfit, consisting of C. N. Van Hosen, Byron Gill, A. L. Wood and Mr. Dowell. They established their offices on the line between Potter and Sully counties.

George B. Thomas came to Sully County in the winter and selected land in Potter County, but later took a homestead in Clifton Township. His ideas of this country were well expressed in one of his letters: "When I left Wisconsin to settle in Sully County, I imagined buffalo roaming over the prairies. Indians in their war paint, cowboys and desperadoes, driving everything before their unerring aim. But to my surprise I found men and women settling in Sully County just like myself. Industrious, intelligent, hard-working, peace-loving citizens, perfectly honest, and with a great capacity to manfully fill the best-paying office in the whole county."

The first white child born in the township was a girl, Cora, born to Mr. and Mrs. John Lawrence, on May 5, 1884, and when the township was organized, it was named in her honor.

Other residents at this time included Morton F. Howard, Sam Leighty and family; Millie Beach and brother; George and Henry Rood; George Travess and family; Wilson McConnell and family; John Hardman and family; Ted Godden; Frank Welch; Harry Bollinger; Ted Dakin and family; Joseph and John Wilding.

Robert Bown and family were also early settlers. James and Joe Bown are still there. J. W. Millar came at the time when Porter, Thomas and Walters came, in 1883. Millar married Lizzie Kline and now has one of the best modern homes



Early home of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Millar in Cora Township, with five of their children.

in the county. They have raised a family of six boys and six girls and still live on the claim where he and his six oxen went to work in 1883.

The first school was held in a 10x10 shack and was taught by Millie Beach, in 1887, at \$20.00 per month. She had eight pupils. That season a schoolhouse was purchased from Norfolk Township and was used until 1916 when it burned. Two new schoolhouses opened in September, 1922, with about 15 pupils at each school. Miss Clara Herr taught the West School, and E. B. Green, the East School.

Of all the early settlers in Cora Township, two are still living on their



Mr. and Mrs. James Bown and their oldest son Robert, in 1908.



Edna Kreuger and Great Grandma Bown in 1907. Edna, who lived in Waukesha, Wisconsin, had taught school in the Cora area, and was visiting Mrs. Bown when this picture was taken.

same farms, Mrs. Lizzie Millar and Mrs. Clara Bown.

Mrs. Millar has lived on this same place for sixty five years. Her husband, J. W. Millar, passed away in 1944. Her son, Jesse Millar, now owns and operates the farm. A daughter, Joyce, lives with her mother and brother. Mrs. Millar has lived in three different houses; the present one being a fine modern home. She will be eighty-two years old on June 19, 1959. She is the mother of twelve children all born at home, of which ten are living. Most of her children and grandchildren live close enough to enjoy frequent visits at the old home.

Mrs. Clara Bown also lives on the same farm that was her first home fifty-two years ago. Her husband, the late James Bown, passed away in 1947. She is the mother of eight sons. A very interesting fact is that six of them chose to make their homes in Cora Township. James, unmarried, lives with his mother; Verne and family reside in the same yard; Kenneth, Fred, Sidney and Marion, with their families, have fine farms surrounding the old home place; Robert and his family live a quarter of a mile into Hyde county, and John lives in Agar.

Mrs. Bown was born in Gettysburg, March 19, 1889, the daughter of Joseph Wilding, one of the earliest pioneers of Cora Township, where she grew up, and taught one of the first schools in the township.

The Bown brothers have grain and

livestock farms. They all raise Hereford cattle.

Arthur Mielke has lived on the Northeast of Four since 1933. He lived just two miles north in Potter County for fourteen years prior to moving to his present location. He owns a fine herd of Black Angus cattle which is an attractive sight when strung out in a grazing line.

Mr. and Mrs. Lauren Bloodgood live on the Southwest of One. They moved to Cora Township from Cavour, South Dakota, in 1924. Their son, Stanley, and his family live a quarter of a mile south. He and his father farm together and have a



Lucy Bown feeding pet lambs, about 1908.



James and Joe Bown and John Travess shearing sheep, about 1906.

herd of two hundred registered Black Angus cattle. Probably the only adobe house in the county is occupied by the Stanley Bloodgoods.

George Walforth moved to Cora Township from Onida in 1939. He is located on the Southwest of 19. His wife is the former Edna Shoup, daughter of the late Ernest and Anna Shoup, pioneers of Richvalley Township. They have four sons and two daughters. George is engaged in farming and livestock raising.

The Willie Fischers have lived in Cora Township since 1939. They have three sons. Chris lives in Cora Township, on the Alf Hayes farm which he purchased in 1953. His wife is the former Anna Scott, whom he met and married in England, while serving in World War II. They have two daughters. Chris and his father have a large herd of cattle.



Hauling hay on the Lyle Nelson ranch in 1956.

Mr. and Mrs. Lyle Nelson moved into Cora Township from Morton where they had lived for five years, after leaving Onida, in 1940. They purchased the McCamly farm, one of the oldest in the township. Three generations of the McCamly family had lived there for over fifty years. Mr. Nelson feeds livestock and the principal grain raised has been corn.

J. C. Bieber, of Gettysburg, owns the Northeast of 28. He bought this ranch in 1937, which is known as the George Dudley place. His son, Jerry and family, live there. Mr. Bieber and Jerry keep four hundred registered Hereford cattle.

Alvin Heier, a son-in-law of J. C. Bieber, lives in Cora Township on the former Chris Kock place. He also raises registered Hereford cattle. Mrs. Heier taught the East Cora school for several years.



Sam Travess, playing the banjo, and Dave McCamly, playing the violin. Taken the summer of 1913, where the Kasper postoffice was located.

Cora Township, along with Sully County, has enjoyed twenty years of prosperity which one can see as he drives through the township. All the farm homes are enjoying rural electrification and nearly every home is completely modern. Many new buildings have been added to the farms for garages, machine shops and grain storage.

The township roads are all good grades, and for the most part are gravel. It has daily mail service from Onida with W. L. Jordan as mail carrier. Stone Lake is completely dry, for the first time in twenty years and the clouds of alkali dust blowing from there on a windy day resemble a huge prairie fire.

ELK TOWNSHIP

Elk Township was settled in the early spring of 1883, and because the township to the north was not open for filing, Elk was settled very rapidly. Although many newcomers homesteaded in that area, a good share of them returned to their homes back East because of the many hardships and lack of schools.

Some of those early settlers were Mr. and Mrs. Ed Smith, who homesteaded on the Northwest of Two. They built a small house where three children were born. The family moved back to Wisconsin about 1890, where there were better advantages and schools for the children.

Milton Smith also took a homestead in the early spring of 1883, and built a sod shanty. His mother, Mrs. Ellen Smith, a brother Grant, and a sister Sarah came in the spring of 1884. They purchased farm implements and horses with the intention of making their home on the prairie. They all worked hard, cradling the grain and mowing the hay with a scythe to feed the stock. Mrs. Smith passed away the following year which broke up the home. Grant and Sarah found a home elsewhere, and Milton later married Maggie Mackie, who had proved up on a redemption during the summer of 1883. Miss Mackie's shack stood on a high ridge of land and was used as a land mark for travelers. She taught in the first school. Milton and Maggie built a large house on the Northwest of 10 where a son was born to them. Sickness and hard times caused them to move away and leave their home.

George Walker and his son G. Frank were among those early settlers, filing on homesteads in March of 1883. The family joined them that fall and they settled on Section 11 where they built a large house. Many hardships were encountered besides hauling water for 20 years for the home. Later an artesian well was put down which supplied the house and yard with running water. A second son, Charles W., took charge of the farm in later years. G. Frank held several offices in the township and in Sully County. He married Ida Shepherd, of Onida. A son, C. Marion, was born to them. Following the death of G. Frank in March of 1904, his brother, Charles W., married his widow and to them a son,

Francis E., was born. They lived on the ranch until 1919, when they moved to Highmore, South Dakota, where the boys could attend high school. Florence Walker was a teacher for many years and in 1909, married A. E. VanCamp, of Highmore. George Walker lived to be 80 years old and passed away in 1910, at the home of his daughter.

Byron Taylor and his bride homesteaded on the Northwest of Two in 1884, where two children were born. When they reached school age, the family moved back to Illinois.

Ephriam Schultz and his family was another one of the early settlers. They homesteaded on the Northwest of Nine. The youngest daughter, Emma, married Nels Johnson and moved out of the township. John Hanson, son-in-law of Mr. Schultz, lived on the Southwest of Nine, but they finally moved back to Chicago.

Others coming here in the early years, but leaving for other locations, were August and Ed Byers, Henry Thiel, Fritz Meine, Peter Nauman, George Chadwick, George Howard, Anton Max, Frank Niehaus, Frank Dollenback, Lauritz Udby, August Burghardi, W. Porter, Nels Hanson and others.

Two schoolhouses were built in the spring of 1885, one in the east part of the township and the other in the west, and during the years were moved several times for the convenience of the pupils. The east schoolhouse was taught by Sadie Marso, Georgia Summerside, Florence Walker and Miss Hannagan. Some of the teachers at the west school called the Marso School, included Maggie Mackie, Laura Grass, Viola Howard, Miss Glessner, Mrs. Ross, Gus Howard, Hal Hoover and a Mr. Graham. Sunday School was held at the Marso School during the summer months for several years.

Not all of those pioneering people with a zest for living left for "greener pastures." The Garrett family, consisting of Mr. and Mrs. Tom Garrett and three daughters; Mrs. Garrett's mother, Grandma Oakes, and Mr. and Mrs. Dick Garrett, were one of the earlier families to settle in Elk Township. They acquired eight quarter sections of land and two homestead rights. This large acreage was sold to Mr. and Mrs. B. B. Wells for \$5.00 per acre, a total of \$30,000.00, in the fall of 1901.

The John Marso family were also one of the early families to make their home here. Miss Mary Marso later became Mrs. Jim O'Donnell.



Mr. and Mrs. George Beckett. Pioneers of Elk Township.

George and Ira Beckett came to South Dakota early in December, 1901 to file on homesteads. The George Becketts were on the Southeast of 31 and Ira and his wife, Agnes, had the one two miles west. George and Erma Beckett sold their homestead to her aunt, who had land close by, and then purchased the Southwest of 19 where they built their home. The Becketts moved into their new home in January, 1908. Their children, Verna and Roy, were five and three years old, respectively, at that time.

Verna Beckett was married to George Salathe on March 27, 1920, and moved into their new home, across the road west of the Beckett place, in the fall of 1920. They have two sons and three daughters. Harold is married to Marie Bloom, and they have a daughter, Valerie Kay. Jerauld is married to Marlys Morford and works with his father on the ranch. Dorothy married George Winckler, of Harrold; Shirley is married to Victor Auch, and Delores is married to Elmer Mehrer.

Roy Beckett and Anna Salathe were married in October, 1926, at a double wedding ceremony, at which time Jess Salathe and Irene Shoup, of Onida, were also married. Roy and Anna have six children; Hazel, who is married to Paul Mueller; Delmar, who is stationed at Fort Bragg, North Carolina; Ronald and Donald, who are attending Harrold High

School; Charlotte, who is married to Nick Meyer, and Viola, who is married to Gordon Magness.

When Mr. and Mrs. B. B. Wells moved into their new home in 1920, the old house was remodeled for the Southeast Sully Club meetings. They formed a baseball team which included Fred and Joe Galinat, Enos Thorn, Clarence and Ed Metz, Bill Peterson, Roy Beckett and Lewis Wells. The team was called, "S.E.S." (South East Sully). One Sunday, when they were playing in the rain, someone asked, "What does S.E.S. mean?" and Roy Beckett answered, "Soaked Every Sunday."

Mr. and Mrs. P. H. Peterson and family moved here in the spring of 1910, from Newark, Illinois, and settled on the Frank Allen farm. That fall, their sons, Wilbur and Irving, started school, the only pupils attending, and by spring there were 26 pupils in attendance.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Miller moved to North Elk Township in the spring of 1917, from Lake County, South Dakota. They settled on the Joe Marso place. The Millers had six children. In 1928, the family moved to South Elk Township where Paul passed away in 1930. His sons, Charles and John, then took over the farming operations. In 1931, Charles moved about a half mile north to the Joe Freeland place which he purchased and has made a home for his mother, Anna Miller.

Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Bayne settled on the old Nick Marso farm in May, 1919.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Ogle moved on the southeast part of Elk Township the spring of 1919, with two of their children. Later the other three children came to make their home there. Mrs. Ogle passed away in 1948. Mr. Ogle is retired now and makes his home with his youngest son, Lowell, who lives on the home place with his wife, the former Kathryn Schmitgen and their six sons.

Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Barnes settled on a place three and a half miles northeast of Harrold in 1923, and later moved into their own home five miles northeast of Harrold. The Barnes' have six children, five of which are married. In 1956, they moved to Highmore and sold their home place to their son, Marvin. Rollin, who married Virginia Wakefield in 1948,

moved on what was known as the Klebe place, owned by his father. In 1951, Rollin and Virginia purchased the place from Mr. Barnes.

Herman and Alvina Gluhm came to Sully County in 1925, from Miner County, and settled on a farm seven miles northeast of Harrold in Elk Township. They lived there for 30 years and then retired, moving to Huron, South Dakota. Their son, Wilbur, is now on the farm.

The Ed Misterek family moved to Elk Township in 1925, and built up the farm which they now own and live on.

Mr. and Mrs. William Hoffman moved to North Elk Township from Parkston, South Dakota, in 1926, and built up a nice farm. Mrs. Hoffman has since passed away, and Mr. Hoffman continues to live on the home place. The Hoffmans had three children.

Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Hoffman moved to South Elk Township in the spring of 1931, the former Hanson Brothers place. Their daughter is married to Enos Thorn and they settled on the former Joe Hall place in 1933, later moving the buildings to a mile northwest to a better location.

The August Bauer family settled on the Northeast of 31 in the fall of 1943, moving there from Hughes County. This place was originally the Hunt place, later belonging to Gregory Weber, who sold it to Bauer. The Bauers have remodeled the house, built a large barn, a new chicken house and added a new steel granary. For many years, before the advent of modern plumbing, the flowing artesian well provided a "ready made" shower, and during the summer months one could see cars coming from all directions with people wishing to take advantage of the little shower house on the Bauer farm.

The Hulan Barbee family, originally from Quanah, Texas, now live on the place formerly known as the Andrew Markisen farm. The Markisens are now living on the Allen farm.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Pietz, who moved here from Newton, Kansas, purchased the farm formerly occupied by Gus Johnson.

Mr. and Mrs. Lynn Ebert moved to the former Charles Walker place in northeast Elk Township in the fall of 1958, which was recently vacated by the Roland Rivenes family.

FAIRBANK TOWNSHIP

The spring of 1883, saw numerous young pioneers from the East heading towards the unsettled parts of Dakota Territory in search of new land and independence.

George H. Dunkle, a young man of 22, and his brother, Miles, 24, were among the first to file on pre-emptions in Fairbank Township early in May, 1883. George filed on the Southwest of 21, now owned by Gilbert Smith. The Dunkle brothers came here from Pennsylvania, being descendants of a pioneer family settling there in 1730. The two brothers worked at many jobs, such as driving a stagecoach, cattle raising, working in a general store and operating a ferry boat across the Missouri River. On one of his many trips to Fort Sully, where he delivered milk, George gave the late Mayor LaGuardia, of New York City, then a small boy at the Fort, a ride, along with several other small boys, to the top of a hill near the Fort in his milk ranch wagon, and then sent them back home. The Dunkle brothers returned to their home state in the 1890's. George passed away on December 24, 1955, at the age of 95.

Another early settler was the Cavanaugh family who proved up the land on section five. A son, Ralph C., became president of the Missouri River Townsite Company. Miss Louise Cavanaugh was married to Tom Tolton in 1889, by the Rev. J. M. French, and later they moved to Fort Bennett.

David C. Nichol was another pioneer and one of the early postmasters at Fairbank, a little town that boomed during 1884, but soon after disintegrated. Miss Agnes Nichol fell heir to a large legacy in Scotland in the early fall of 1888.

The W. J. Johnston place was sold in November, 1903, to Joe Pitlick, of Iowa, who, with his three sons, Paul, Ed and Joe, Jr., made extensive improvements. They planted several rows of walnut trees around the house, which was unique. Mr. Pitlick purchased a steam plow to sink an artesian well in the spring of 1904. He left his three sons to take over and they settled just across the line in Grandview Township. The Pitlick place has been occupied by the Hughes family.

Two schoolhouses were ready for use



Richard Cavanaugh and David Nichol. Pioneers of Fairbank Township.

in the fall of 1884, and the school located in Lower Fairbank was taught by Miss Nettie Carley. H. C. Paull and Miss Carrie Arnold were also early-day teachers in the district.

Other pioneer families settling in this township included the Nystroms (Miss Louisa Nystrom had a barn erected on her farm, 100 feet long, with a solid stone basement, costing about \$1600.); the Spencers; B. P. Hoovers; the Johnson brothers; the Chris Rodenburgs; James A. Howardson, Sr., and Jr.; Charles Nelson, who sold his land in January of 1904 and departed for Sweden, after living alone on his farm for more than 20 years; the Holset family, and many others.

The Rev. Dr. Thalbert, of Norway, Sweden, located in Fairbank Township in February of 1886.

Norval Blair came to Sully County in 1884, and filed on a homestead in Section One, Fairbank Township, where he remained until his death on October 7, 1916, at the age of 102. Mr. Blair was born into slavery in Tennessee in 1814, and after being liberated under President Lincoln's Proclamation in 1863, he moved to Illinois, where he resided until coming to Dakota Territory. He was an industrious worker and became a wealthy man, and at the time of his death was an extensive land owner in Sully County. Two of his sons, P. H. and B. P. (Benjamin) had already settled here when he arrived. The young men had come out to this country in 1882.

Mrs. C. Blair and Edward Blair, of Elliott, Iowa, mother and brother of Mrs. S. R. Pratt, of Farmington Township,

came here on August 21, 1889, to visit and feast their eyes on Dakota territory.

During the year 1905, Benjamin Blair received many inquiries from Negroes all over the United States asking about the Colored Colony, and in March, the following year, the first group of investors arrived here. The settlement grew until it reached almost 200 people.

Miss Mary Elizabeth Blair, who had come here with her parents in 1884, but had left and found employment in Iowa, returned in October, 1906, with a company of colored people who joined the new colony. Mary was employed by the King Real Estate Company, and her largest land sale of a 1200 acre ranch was to John McGruder, who came here from Missouri, where he owned the farm on which he had once been a slave. While on his farm in Selby County, Missouri, McGruder raised and trained race horses, one of which was a prize winner at the World's Fair in 1893.

After purchasing the farm, formerly belonging to Tom Lytle, for \$35,000 in October, 1907, John McGruder went back to Missouri to get his wife, Ellen, and their children. The McGruders engaged in extensive farming and ranching. Mr. McGruder, one of the prominent colored citizens of Sully County, died at his home on September 11, 1913, after an illness of almost a year. Mrs. McGruder, affectionally known as "Grandma McGruder," passed away in January, 1937, from the affects of severe burns, and is buried in the Onida Cemetery beside her son, William.

The McGruders are the only ones left of the Colored Colony; the others having moved to various parts of the country following the 1930 depression years.

Mr. and Mrs. Cecil McGruder raised their nine children on a ranch located in the isolated butte area along the Missouri River. They were never without entertainment, for they had their own orchestra. Even Linda played her own miniature violin made by her father, when she was six years old. Cecil is a violinist, who usually takes first place at local talent contests, and also makes violins as a hobby. He began this work back in 1895, when a musician with the orchestra of Ringling Brothers asked him to rebuild an instrument. Soon his interest was aroused and he began to construct violins.

He ordered violin maple, used a key saw, a plain piece of glass to trim the wood, sandpaper, varnish and cowhide glue, and from these articles he constructed an instrument which later sold for \$150. He purchased his own violin for three dollars which he earned selling bluing.



Maxine McGruder. Great granddaughter of John McGruder, pioneer of Fairbank Township.

A daughter, Maxine, is the only Negro teaching at a white school in South Dakota. She attended rural schools in her district, graduated from Pierre High School and went to Northern State Teachers College, Aberdeen, South Dakota, and has always been accepted on an equality with no discrimination. Maxine plans to get a college degree, but before that is possible, she feels a responsibility in helping her younger brothers and sisters receive their education.



The Checkerboard School

In 1900-11, Sadie Nystrom taught in the South Fairbank School, known as the Checkerboard School because she had an even number of pupils, 12 white and 12 colored.

This school had the finest chorus of any school in Sully County, and were asked to participate in many programs within the county.



The Kenneth Darland family moved here from Potter County in 1943, when they purchased the Southeast of One. They moved all the buildings from the



Aerial View of Kenneth Darland Ranch, 1958

site below the Fuller Dam to a more desirable location south of the dam. The log house, built in 1875, was also moved and is now used for a garage and shop. Their house, known as a Spaulding house, was moved from its original location southwest of Onida and was remodeled and modernized in 1947. The Darlands have seven children: Gloria, Gary, Janice, Marilyn, Beverly, Betty Jo and Desiree.



The Robert Gattons purchased their farm on Section 19, in May, 1950. This was formerly known as the Swede John place. In the spring of 1952, flood waters

made farming operations difficult; however, the hay and alfalfa meadows, buildings and corrals were not damaged by high water. The Gattons have four children: two boys and two girls. The Corps of Engineers purchased their place in 1958, and when the Oahe Dam is completed and filled, only about 60 acres of the farmland will be left.



FAIRVIEW TOWNSHIP

Some of the first settlers locating in Fairview Township were Andrew Benedict and sons, Elmer and Wade, H. C. Spencer, Charles Eckert, the McCulloughs, the Savage brothers, the Landeau brothers, William Low and sons, and others. Mr. Low was the postmaster at Kasper in 1888.

Dr. P. Kendall filed on a homestead on the Southwest of 17, in October, 1904. After the Kendalls moved to Onida, the place was occupied by Tim Shoup for about three years. Then in 1916, Mrs. Kendall sold to Jim Dillon, the doctor having passed away.



The Monroe Shoup Family

Monroe Shoup purchased the Dillon quarter of land in the fall of 1918, which included a few buildings—a three-room tarpaper shack, small barn, chicken house



Robert Gatton Family, 1958



Original Claim Shack of Monroe Shoup in 1906. Mr. Shoup and daughter, LeVaun, with her dog.

and a cattle shed. In 1921, a cyclone leveled off everything except the house, and after a great deal of hard work and sacrifice the Shoups built up the place again and continued to use the claim shack as living quarters. It was difficult during the early thirties and many of the winters were long and cold. Being on a side road, there were times when four and five weeks would elapse before the family could get to town. During the dust storms, it was necessary to light the kerosene lamp at high noon in order to see about the house. And the claim shack, which was still being used as living quarters, kept out only a small portion of the powdered dust which made cooking and eating a real chore.

In the fall of 1939, the Shoups pur-

chased a five-room house which still stands where the claim shack had been located. Considerable remodeling was done through the years, and in 1953, Mr. Shoup added more rooms and modernized the house. Then in 1956, they decided to move to Onida and sold all their livestock and machinery. Alvin Heien farmed there on shares the following summer, and that fall the Shoups sold the farm to Henry Buhler, who took possession in December.

The Shoup children are all married and Lester, who lives in Onida, is the only one who decided to stay in South Dakota. LeVaun, the oldest, lives in Santa Rosa, California, and Marvin and Doris live in Los Angeles.



Fairview Schools

There were three schoolhouses in Fairview Township by the late eighties and Sunday Schools were held in the school buildings at that time. Then in 1922, a new schoolhouse was built and later moved to Section 16 in order to be more centrally located. Jacob S. G. Hofer helped build this schoolhouse. The North Fairview School was taught by Miss Freda Minder in 1944. There has always been a school in operation in Fairview Township and at the present time there are nine children attending the Fairview School.



North Fairview School in 1944. Back row, left to right — Dwayne Hofer, Ruth Fuller, Miss Freda Minder, teacher, LeRoy Hofer, Doris Shoup and Alverde Hines. Front row — Larry Venner, Joe Hines, Deloris Venner and Charrel Lytle.



Snow piled high along cut in Laurence Venner yard in 1952. Madonna Venner standing on bank of snow.

Hines Family

The Hines family established a home in Fairview Township in 1917. They erected buildings and hauled water for about a year from the William Vetter farm. The sons, Willard and Roy, continued living on the place after their parents passed away.

After Willard Hines and his family left the farm, the Lloyd Clark family lived there and later it was sold to Laurence Venners, who still live there.

The Roy Hines family purchased land in Fairview Township in 1930, constructed buildings and put down a well and lived there for a number of years before moving to Onida. Francis Shoup then purchased the place, enlarged and modernized the house, built a new hog house and planted trees around the buildings. The Shoup children are now attending Fairview School



Gilbert Campbell

The Gilbert Campbells are living on the place formerly occupied by the Fuller family, and prior to Robert Burlingmire, who erected the buildings on the place. Gilbert has remodeled the house and planted trees in the yard.

Hofer Families

Mr. and Mrs. J. S. G. Hofer and family moved to Fairview Township from Bridgewater, South Dakota, in 1919, and purchased a farm. They had a complete set of buildings erected and lived there until 1941, when they retired and moved to Onida. The Sam G. Hofer family then took over the farm and are operating it with the help of their son, Dwayne and family. The tornado of July 29, 1934, damaged the barn and other buildings which were later rebuilt. The Hofers also had a new house built for their son, Dwayne and family. The two Hofer boys attended school in Fairview Township, driving a horse and cart two and a half miles to school. Mr. and Mrs. J. S. G. Hofer moved from Onida to Freeman, South Dakota, in 1945, where they are still residing.

In the fall of 1920, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph G. Hofer began building their farm on the bare prairie on the Southeast of 32. Mr. Hofer and his brothers dug a pond with several teams of horses and scrapers for their first water supply. Since that time the farm has been steadily improved with a good well, a large grove of trees and numerous buildings. A tornado partially destroyed the farm in 1943, but it was rebuilt "bigger and better." The two Hofer daughters attended

the Fairview School two miles east of their farm, and graduated from Onida High School.



George Lytle Family



George Lytle moving hay with stack mover.

The Lytle family moved to Fairview Township in 1925, when Mr. Lytle taught the South Fairview School. The family returned to Fairview in 1931, for the summer months, living on the farm that the Riggle family had homesteaded in the early days. The store and postoffice were located in their house, 16 miles northeast of Onida. They returned to the Riggle ranch in the spring of 1934, after having left it for three years, and have made it their home since that time. The farm formerly occupied by the McGillverey and Donald Campbell families, is now a part of the Lytle ranch. Through the years, the Lytles have remodeled their home, constructed 12 dams and planted 40 acres of trees on their ranch. Registered Hereford cattle and saddle horses are raised on the ranch.



Guy Archer

Guy Archer purchased his farm in 1938, which had originally been homesteaded by George Dillon's father. The house has been remodeled, improvements made on the buildings and a grove of trees and bushes planted as a windbreak. Mr. and Mrs. Archer's son attended the Fairview School. Mrs. Archer has passed away.



Donald Campbell Family

The Donald Campbell family have lived on their farm for the past 20 years, and prior to that time occupied the Mc-

Gillverey place for five years, which is now a part of the Lytle ranch. A Mr. Lowe homesteaded the Campbell farm, and the house was formerly a part of the hotel at Agar.

The Arthur Venner family reside on the Albert Youngberg farm, and the Dave Pullmans live on the old Dwyer place.

The Jack Farley family left Fairview Township in 1934, and the Ike Huffman family left in 1936, both families moving to California to seek greener pastures.



FARMINGTON TOWNSHIP

An old clerk's record book for Farmington Township records that in 1896, Nick Schlachter built two schoolhouses in Farmington School District at a cost of \$800.00. One of the schoolhouses was built on the corner west where Lewellyn Todd now lives. In 1904, the other school stood on the southwest corner of Section 17. However, it may have been built two miles south of there. The first schoolboard members were Charles Beshear, Mrs. Pat Wall and Al Andrews. Among the first teachers at the north school were Maud Cole Garner, R. J. Courtney and Malcolm McLaughlin. McLaughlin later became a sort of merchant prince at Highmore. The north school was moved to the corner west of what is now the Charlie Todd home. Pupils attending school there that year were Charlie, Melvin, Effie and Fern Todd, the Beshear twins and three of Dave Fairbank's children. During that school year, through no fault of the pupils, four different teachers were employed before the term ended.

In 1904, the Fairbank-Hallam holdings embraced the greater part of Sections 8-9-10-13-14-15-16-17-21-22-23 and some in the next township south, with headquarters on the Southwest of 15 where the Art Wittler home now stands. The first artesian well was drilled there in 1896, and for a number of years practically every settler in the township, except John Todd, hauled water from there during at least part of the year. Moisture conditions improved beginning in 1902. Land values increased and Fairbank and Hallam disposed of their holdings and left for greener pastures.

In the fall of 1909, the schoolboard hired Frank Merrill as teacher. He had



Farmington School — Maud Cole Garner, teacher. Back row, left to right — Buna and Bula Beshear, twin daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Beshear; Effie, Charles, Melvin and Fern Todd, children of the John Todds. Front row — Ruth, Mable and Hattie Fairbank, daughters of Mr. and Mrs. David Fairbank.

come out from Wisconsin a year or two previously. During the Christmas vacation he went to Onida and while there met and became so enamoured with a young woman that he was several days late opening up the school. The pupils went to school and stood around until noon for a day or two. When he finally did return, a member of the schoolboard informed him that there would be no more school. The next day the members of the schoolboard went to Mr. Cavanaugh's homestead shack and hired him to finish the term at \$60.00 a month. Pupils at that time were the five children of Fred Stoll, six of Matt Wagner's, five Rilling children and Gladys and Lester Currier. Lloyd Gates had been a pupil, but he quit. Vina Brehe, Alex Brehe's oldest daughter, attended school the final month. Mrs. Brehe and son Ed, a lad of four years, brought her to school with a team and lumber wagon.

The North School was moved four times and found a final resting place a mile north of Frank Weischedel's. The Brehe School ended its usefulness one mile north of the home of Bertha and George Westphal. Both of these older schools have been sold, dismantled and gone. In 1922, a new schoolhouse was built to accommodate the Charlie Todd and Cavanaugh families. Edith Evans Vadenwal was the first teacher. That school usually had a large attendance, but now has dwindled to three. A new schoolhouse

was built near the site of the old one north of Frank Weischedel's about four years ago.

The population of Farmington Township has never been large, the voting registration being about 60. So naturally the acreage per farm includes considerable land. The soil is productive, wheat being the main cash crop, but corn and other feed grains are also raised.

Among the residents not already mentioned are the Fred Stoll and Silbaugh families, who came in 1907. Oscar and Carl Fransen with their brother-in-law, Charlie Johnson, and their cousins, Gus and Augie, also came in 1907. Carl lives in Section Two, on the land he first bought. Oscar went west years ago. The Johnson family (Charlie died with the flu) have all moved away.

As is only natural, great changes have taken place through the years. "Old Dobbin" has practically disappeared except as a family saddle horse. The tractor has taken the place of horses and the farmhand and the farm grain and corn elevator have replaced the scoop shovel and the pitchfork.

The spiritual part of Farmington's life was not neglected. An itinerant preacher, J. W. A. Collins, came in the late nineties and for a number of years he tied marital knots, baptized children and buried the dead. He preached whenever he was asked, even though many times his

only means of transportation was "shanks" pony or an old bicycle.

About 1921 a Sunday School was organized at the Cass School. After the new Todd-Cavanaugh schoolhouse was built in 1922, it was moved to the Cass School location because there was more room. Preaching services were held when ministers could be obtained. Among them were Rev. Bledsoe, Martin McGuire and Rev. J. Gugin, Sr. An interesting part of the services was an excellent male quartet, consisting of Calvin, Albert and Charles Brehe and Verne Pearson, with Grace Brehe or some other lady as organist. These meetings were held until about 1940 when they were transferred to Agar.

Rural Free Delivery organized at Gorman on June 2, 1913, with Ed Cronin as carrier, came from the north and turned east at the corner one-half mile west of the Carl Fransen home. That route gave residents their first free delivered mail and to begin with there were five mail boxes on one corner. Sometime in 1925, the Agar R.F.D. was organized, with Neil Bever as carrier, and since then practically all of Farmington has had R.F.D. service.

The Bell Telephone line was built from Agar northwest as far as the Cavanaugh farm in 1929, with customers all along the line. The Gas Belt Telephone Company came into existence in 1910, and the people in the west half of Farmington, as well as a good share of Western Sully, had some service from that line. However, poor collections over the years and hard times during the thirties practically wrecked the Company. The new Sully Buttes line now blankets the western part of the county not served by Northwestern Bell.

Practically all the boys and girls born in Farmington between 1915 and 1935 finished high school at Agar and a few at Onida, and their names invariably appeared on the honor roll. Farmington Township has had a full quota in the Armed Services and of the young men, that took advantage of the GI Bill of Rights, several are University graduates and now have fine positions. Of those at home, many own and operate profitable farms of their own.

The tarpaper shack and the partly underground residence has disappeared. Homes, if not seasonably new, have been

rebuilt and modernized. The R.E.A. came in about 1951, and almost every home in the community is served with electricity, the septic tank, hot and cold water, and the bathroom. The day of the cow chip, the corn cob and the hated lignite for use as fuel is probably gone forever.

Over the years, Farmington residents have had many good times at the Bouchie, Alex Brehe and Gus Brehe barn dances. The Community Hall, built by people's subscriptions in about 1948, gives ample room for various home affairs. Farmington people without exception are all good neighbors, clean, and hardworking citizens, and the homemakers are invariably good cooks.



The Rilling Family

David E. Rilling was born at Omro, Wisconsin, July 26, 1855, of German parents. His wife, the former Edith Sage, was also born in Wisconsin on Dec. 12, 1857, where she grew to young womanhood and in 1878, married David Rilling. They lived in Kingsbury County two years and then moved to Sully County where they filed on their homestead, which was about one-fourth of a mile east of where the old home now stands.

Eleven children were born to them. One son, Earl, passed away of diphtheria when he was four years old. Ruth and Arlie (Mrs. Albert Gordon) have also passed away. Archie and David D. are living at Lavona, North Dakota. Elsie O'Hair is living at Atwater, Minnesota; Russell, at Pierre, South Dakota; Viola Currier at Selby, South Dakota; Agnes Reiger at Java, South Dakota; Rolland at Watertown, South Dakota, and Alfred at Yankton, South Dakota.

When the township was searching for a name, Mr. Rilling submitted the name of Farmington, which was chosen as the one best suited to that locality.

Mr. and Mrs. Rilling loved the farm and the wide open spaces of South Dakota. They enjoyed working with trees and flowers and every year Mr. Rilling would plant a new fruit tree. He had many kinds and could remember the name of each one. He also loved birds and was thrilled when he saw his first robin in South Dakota.

One time, while the family was at the



Mr. and Mrs. David E. Rilling. Picking apples on their farm home in 1925.

Missouri River on an outing, Mr. Rilling could not be found for some time. When he returned he told the family he had been trying to catch a young crow. He had had one for a pet when a small boy and had wanted another just like it. He was also a lover of music and could play the violin, and together with Will Ripley, played for many dances in the community.

Mr. Rilling often spoke of retiring but couldn't bring himself to leave his beloved farm, so he stayed there until his death in March, 1937. Their daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. John Reiger, moved to the farm and Mrs. Rilling continued to live with them until her passing in March, 1949.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Brehe, a son of Mr. and Mrs. Alex Brehe, purchased the Rilling farm in 1957 and are now living on it.



The Fisher Homestead

George W. Fisher was born at Boston, Massachusetts, on February 23, 1847. His parents moved to Lewiston, Maine, when he was seven years old. From there he joined the 16th Maine Inf. Co. K., at the age of 14 and served 21 months during which he was wounded at the Battle of Gettysburg. He was discharged in 1865. In 1883, he was united in marriage to Sarah J. Kingsley of Janesville, Wisconsin. The young couple moved to Farmington Township and homesteaded on the Southwest of 32-116-78 in 1886. They had five children, two of whom are still living,

Laura, now Mrs. Ed Pitlick of Pine River, Minnesota, and George K. of Eugene, Oregon.

The Fisher's first home in Farmington Township was a dug-out which they lived in until about 1901. They hauled water from Clifton well situated on Okobojo Creek, across the road from the Frank Hayes place. This well had to be pumped by hand. Corn, straw, hay and cow chips were the only fuel they knew, with the exception of a little wood when it was available. Many a time, they hauled manure into the yard to let cattle and horses pack it, cut it in squares and then piled it to dry for winter fuel.

In 1901, the Fishers moved to Hartford Township on a tree claim near the George Ripley place. Here they put down an artesian well which also kept neighbors supplied with water for farm use, but they still hauled their drinking water from the Missouri River.

In 1908, they moved to Onida, and resided there until their passing; Mrs. Fisher in 1916, and Mr. Fisher, in 1921.

Laura Fisher was born on February 21, 1890, at Gettysburg, South Dakota, with Dr. Hurley in attendance. C. R. Garner was her first teacher. She was married to Ed Pitlick on November 16, 1910, in Pierre and lived on a farm in Grandview Township. They also had to haul water for their own use for the first 10 years, then were fortunate in purchasing a well drilling outfit, with a neighbor, and succeeded in putting down two wells on their place. They left Sully County in

1936. Three children were born to them—Francis, Edna and Vivian.

George K. Fisher is married and living in Eugene, Oregon. They have three children, all married.



Lewis Johnson Homestead

Lewis L. Johnson took a patent on the Northwest of Section 17 in Farmington Township in 1890, and since then this piece of land has had many owners, a few of whom being I. P. Gates, Mike Mikkelsen, Clyde Tidrick, Dr. B. M. Hart, Alex Brehe and at present is owned by Mr. and Mrs. George Westphal. Mrs. Westphal is the former Bertha Brehe, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alex Brehe. They have three children; Carol and Jackie, both married, and Albert (Corky) at home.

Some of the tenants occupying this farm were Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Fast, parents of Mrs. Axel Mikkelsen; Mr. and Mrs. Art Swanson and his brother, Roy; Karl Kowalski; Mr. and Mrs. Otto Serbousek; Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Neuhauser; Ed Westphal and his son, George; Mr. and Mrs. Adolph Brehe, and Mr. and Mrs. Leonard McDonnell.

Mr. and Mrs. I. P. Gates purchased this land, which was then a raw quarter, in April, 1907, and built it up. They lived there until February, 1919, and then sold it to Clyde Tidrick. The Gates' had two sons, Lloyd and Ed. Lloyd was married in 1924, and lives in Iowa. They have two children. Ed has since passed away.

Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Fast lived on this place from 1922 to 1924. The Fast's had nine children, three of whom are still living. Mr. Fast put down the well which is still being used. Mr. and Mrs. Art Swanson moved onto this farm after it was vacated by the Fast's.

In January, 1927, the Otto Serbousek family moved in. They had two daughters and one son. Their daughter, Thelma, lives in Portland, Oregon, and the other daughter, Arline, lives in San Francisco. Their son, Maynard, is a Professor at the University of Hawaii. The Serbouseks left the farm in 1928, and shortly thereafter, the Arnold Neuhauser family moved in. The Neuhausers had three children; Clifford, Irene and Kermit. They left the farm and moved to California in about



Mr. and Mrs. I. P. Gates. Pioneers of Farmington Township.

1932. Clifford was killed in action while serving in World War II. Mr. Neuhauser and Irene have also passed away, and Mrs. Neuhauser and Kermit are still living in California.

After the Neuhausers left the farm, Ed Westphal and his son, George, moved onto it. George was married in 1936, and moved to Washington state. Ed continued to live there until the fall of 1941.

The Adolph Brehe family moved to this place in the spring of 1942, and lived there for about three years. The Brehe's have three children; Gale, who is married and farming in partnership with his father; Kent, who is working in Colorado, and Joy, who is still at home.

After the Brehes left the farm, it was occupied by the Leonard McDonnell family. Mrs. McDonnell is the former Alma Flood. They have three sons, Michael, Randall, and Charles, and a daughter,

Teah Beth. Mr. and Mrs. George Westphal purchased the place in 1956, when it was vacated by the McDonnells.



The Todd Family

John Wesley Todd was born February 2, 1858, at Anamosa, Iowa, where he grew to manhood. He married Hattie Roberts, at Mitchell, Iowa, on December 25, 1877. The Todds filed on a homestead at Neligh, Nebraska, where they lived until 1888, and then moved to South Dakota, taking a tree claim in Potter County, where they experienced the Indian scare on November 22, 1890. In May, 1893, they moved across the county line and purchased the Henry Brisco homestead on the Southwest of One in 1901.



Mr. and Mrs. John W. Todd.
Pioneers resident of Farmington Township.

They went through all the hardships of those times without a murmur. They saw prairie fires sweep past their door, and listened to icy blasts rattle their little shack. Fuel had to be rustled off the prairies. There were no roads and the lumber wagon and riding horse were their only luxury of conveyance. Dry years robbed them of the fruits of their toil, but they never gave up. Success awaits at labor's gate, and so it was with the Todds. Endowed with fine common sense and a generous measure of business ability, they used their heads as well as their sturdy hands and acquired a good ranch, buying

it piece by piece, as they were able to pay for it.

They lived on this farm until Mr. Todd passed away, November 7, 1938. Mrs. Todd continued to live in the home until June 1943, when she moved to Onida to make her home with her daughter, Mrs. Effie Cass. Shortly thereafter, she suffered a paralytic stroke and was an invalid until her passing on November 18, 1945.

The Todds had 10 children, of which five are still living. Arthur, of Onida; Effie Cass, Charles and Fern Otto, of Agar, and Melvin, of McMinnville, Oregon. Maude, Kate, Myrtle, Herbert and Cecil have passed away.

Charles was married to Annie Siebrasse of Potter County, South Dakota, in September, 1912, and for a few years lived in Milford Township. In March, 1917, they moved to the farm in Farmington Township, where they started building their own home. The Todds had eight children.

Orville, the oldest, was married to Lorraine Gamble of Miller, South Dakota. They are living on the former Arthur Todd farm. Ronelly was married to Marie McCamly in 1941, and they have established a home in Summit Township. Rose married Leonard Tarrell of the Sioux Falls area. They established a home in Farmington Township, but sold out and moved to the Huron, South Dakota area, in January, 1958. Lewellyn married Alosia LaRosh, of Potter County, in January, 1942. They are at home on the former John Todd farm in Farmington Township. Fern Joyce was married to Leonard Pollman in August, 1948, and they live in Lincoln Township. Anton was married to Grace Ruckle and they live on the former Ruckle farm in Garner Township. Basil married Claire Hoff, of Minnesota, in May, 1957. Since they returned from Army life they have made their home in the former Tarrell home. Arlo, the youngest child, is still at home with his parents.

Melvin Todd purchased his father's farm in 1910, and married Anna Lomheim in 1916, and four daughters were born to them, Evelyn, Beulah, Helen and Phyllis. Evelyn, now Mrs. Herbert Anderson, is living near Lebanon, South Dakota, and they have one son, Kenneth. Helen

is married to Albert Wart and is living at McMinnville, Oregon. They have three sons and one daughter. Phyllis is now Mrs. Clyde Smith and is living at Sheridan, Oregon. They have three sons. One daughter, Beulah, passed away in 1928, when she was nine years old. When Mr. and Mrs. Todd left in 1932, and moved to McMinnville, Oregon, the farm was sold to Mr. and Mrs. Clifton Otto.

Clifton Otto was born in Canton, Illinois, on December 26, 1892, and came to South Dakota in 1897. He married Fern Todd, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Todd, in 1917 at Gettysburg. They started their married life on the Fairbank farm, now occupied by Orville Fairbank. They later built a house on the Northwest of 13 in Farmington Township, and lived there until 1932, when they purchased the Melvin Todd farm in Section One. Four children were born to them, Raymond, Marshall, Willard and Dorothy.

Raymond married Dorothy Joens, of Rolfe, Iowa, in 1940. They now live on a farm at Hutchinson, Kansas, and have seven children. Willard married Ruth Roberts of Rolfe, Iowa, in 1940, and now have eight children. They operate a restaurant at Laurens, Iowa. Willard also works in a welding shop. Marshall married Marjorie Joens in 1942, and they now operate a farm at Rolfe, Iowa. They also have eight children. Dorothy is now



Mr. and Mrs. Arthur B. Todd. Pioneers of Farmington Township.

married to John Riedel, and they operate a dairy in Gettysburg, South Dakota.

Arthur purchased the Northeast of Six in Farmington Township in 1907, and put down a shallow well the following year. This well is still being used by Orville Todd, who now owns the place. Arthur married Gladys Currier on September 10, 1913, and seven children were born to them. They continued to live on this farm until 1946, when, due to Mrs. Todd's ill health, they moved to Onida. Mrs. Todd passed away on January 1, 1948. Mr. Todd still lives in Onida.

Their oldest son, Elvin E., has served in the Army for the past 25 years, and at present is stationed at Travis Air Field Base near San Francisco, California. Ethel is now married to Paul Ramler and he, with his brother now own and operate the Onida Electric in Onida. They have two sons, Randy and Ricky. Irene is the wife of Paul White, and they live in Lansing, Michigan. They have two sons, Bobby and Gary, and at present Irene is operating a book store. Marian is married to Larry Mayes and they are living in Onida. She is receptionist and nurse at the Onida Community Hospital for Dr. Westland. Mr. Mayes is bookkeeper at the H & H Motors of Onida. They have twin sons, Larry and Terry, and another son, Gregory. Richard is married and living in Pierre. He is working in the Laboratory Division of the Highway Department. They have two sons, Douglas and Steven, and a daughter, Janet. Doris is now Mrs. Floyd Robinson and she, with her husband and daughter, Pamela, live at Eaton Rapids, Michigan. Her husband is a Bap-



Mr. and Mrs. Charles Todd. Residents of Farmington Township.

tist minister. Jeanne is married to Jack McClure of Onida. They farm in Garner and Grandview Townships. They have one son, Jeffrey, and a daughter, Jenna.

The Brehe Family

Alex Brehe came to South Dakota in 1895, from Arkansas, a miner looking for adventure. He came as far as Blunt by train, on to Clifton with the mail carrier and then walked the last nine miles to the home of his cousin, Henry Esselbrugge, one mile north of Lewiston. His first job was on the Esselbrugge ranch as a sheep herder, having 2,000 head under his care. These he herded on open range, wintering them in the Okobojo Creek hills west of Onida.

Later he was foreman of a threshing crew. This rig consisted of a steam engine and threshing machine. Some of the men who worked the circuit, which went as far as Lake Preston, were Charles Weischedel, Julius Brehe, Ed Wagner, Martin McGuire, Tom Berry and Johnson Wilcox.

When land was released for homesteading, he and his brother, August, chose Farmington Township for their future home. It was here that he and his wife, the former Fannie Weischedel, made their home.

In spite of drought, grasshoppers, prairie fires and dust storms, they built up one of the better farms in the community.

Alex served his district as county commissioner for 35 years, and was a member of the schoolboard for many years. He and his family were enthusias-



Mr. and Mrs. Alex Brehe and daughter Vina, 1902.

tic workers in all community undertakings.

Six of their seven children, Edith (Mrs. Theron McKenney), Adolph, Ed, Albert, Fred and Bertha (Mrs. George Westphal), still farm in Sully County. Mrs. Vina Zeuge resides in Coeur 'd Alene, Idaho.

In the spring of 1898, August Brehe came to Sully County from Fort Smith, Arkansas. He and his brother, Alex, worked in partnership until the fall of 1908, when August bought a farm from Cyrus Glenn. He was married to Stella Florence Weischedel on June 23, 1909, at the home of her parents in Pearl Township, with Rev. J. W. A. Collins officiating. The newlyweds set up housekeeping in a small house, and in 1919 this house was replaced with a much larger



Alex Brehe breaking land in Farmington Township with a steam engine, 1912. Left to right — August Brehe, Fred Weischedel, Henry Esselbrugge, a hired man and Alex on the tractor.

and more comfortable home. He bought his first electric plant about 1924, and his home was one of the first in the community to be furnished with electricity. Gus was always thoughtful of the comforts of his family. Nearly every fall he would load up his family in the old car and take in the State Fair at Huron. This was about the only recreation they had in those days.

In 1917, he put down an artesian well, and this well is still being used. He built a barn in 1927, and it was in this barn several years later, that many dances were held, including the Farmington Community Club dances. Mr. Brehe lived on this farm continuously until his death on April 26, 1945.

Five children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Brehe. The oldest, Grace Irma, was born May 27, 1910, with Dr. Carter in attendance. Dr. Carter lived close to the Missouri River at the time. Grace is now the wife of Fred Smith and resides on the old Frank Wink place in Milford Township.

Calvin Henry was born Jan. 5, 1912, with Dr. S. B. Stegemann in attendance. A real South Dakota blizzard was raging at the time, and this winter was long remembered by the Brehe's as being one of the coldest winters in the history of Sully County. Cal is now married to Pauline Hanson, who served as a WAC during the war. They have three children; Harvey Allen, ten years; Gregory Cecil, seven years, and Wendy Sue, five.

Myrtle Evelyn was born Oct. 10, 1914, and is now the wife of Verne Pearson. They were married in 1938, and started their married life on the old Doner place just across the county line in Potter County. They resided there until 1945, when they purchased the Schnoose place just west of Agar, in Milford Township where they still reside. The oldest son, Delvin Dean, was born in 1939, and is now in the United States Navy, stationed at Norfolk, Virginia. A daughter, Sola Jean, was born in 1940, and is now the wife of Dennis Jost, residing at Hoven, South Dakota. They have a son, Timothy Lee, born June 4, 1959. Charles De Vere was born in 1945, and Dervin LaVerne, in 1949. Both the younger sons are at home.

Charles Richard was born July 19, 1917. He entered the United States Army

in 1941, and was discharged in 1945. He served mostly in Australia and New Guinea, and was married while in Australia. Their son, Frank Richard, is living with them at their home at Mountain Home, Arkansas.

The youngest, Arlene Marie, was born in 1919. She is now the wife of Leland Thompson, and they have one daughter, Jeanne Ann. They reside in Onida and Mrs. Thompson is now serving her second term as Sully County Register of Deeds.

In May, 1931, Mrs. Brehe's sister, Mrs. Emil Flood, passed away, leaving five small girls. The Brehes took the youngest child, Minnie Mae, into their home and raised her as their own. Minnie Mae is now Mrs. Richard Claggett, of Rockville, Maryland. In October, 1934, Mr. Flood passed away, leaving the five girls orphaned, so at that time they took Hazel into their home also. Hazel is now Mrs. Phil Marshall, of Milford Township. The Marshalls have three children; Glenda, Nancy, and Chuckie.

Mrs. Stella Brehe left the farm in 1948, and purchased the former R. J. Courtney home in Onida where she still resides. Mrs. Brehe has been very active in church and community activities all her life, but is now semi-retired.

J. W. A. Collins

The Rev. John Williams Alfred Collins was born in Illinois, March 13, 1872, and when about two years of age, moved with his parents to Neosho County, Kansas, where he grew to young manhood and graduated from the Thayer, Kansas, high school. He entered Baker University at Baldwin, Kansas, in the fall of 1894, but due to ill health was unable to continue his studies after the first year.

He came to South Dakota in 1900, and settled along the southern border of Potter County. Here he spent his days in the service of his fellow men until his health rendered him unable to go about his daily tasks.

In October, 1902, he was united in marriage to Ruby Lockwood, who passed away in 1908. In 1910, he was united in marriage to Mrs. Emma Kempf.

He became a prominent citizen in this territory, serving as Potter County Superintendent from 1908 to 1910. He was State Senator in 1910, and carried mail in 1916 and 1917.

His first and greatest interest, was the work of the Christian Church and was active in the Methodist churches at Gettysburg and Agar. However, he did not confine his efforts solely to these two churches, but went into outlying communities where he held services in schoolhouses, halls or wherever people would gather.

While not an ordained minister, he was licensed as a preacher in these Methodist churches and supplied the pulpit from about 1908 to 1913. His license to continue was kept effective until the time of his confinement at Yankton.



Rev. J. W. A. Collins. An early-day preacher and teacher.

Like St. Paul, he was afflicted with an incurable ailment which was a "thorn in the flesh", but in spite of it he carried on to the limit of his strength. His health gradually began to fail and he was taken to Yankton, South Dakota, where he passed away May 2, 1934.



Fairbank Family

George Fairbank came to Sully County about 1900, and worked for his brother, Dave, and later homesteaded on a quarter section. George married Sarah Estu and they had three children—



Charles and Orville Fairbank. Sons of Mr. and Mrs. George Fairbank. Taken about 1900.

Charles, Orville and the third child died when a few weeks old.

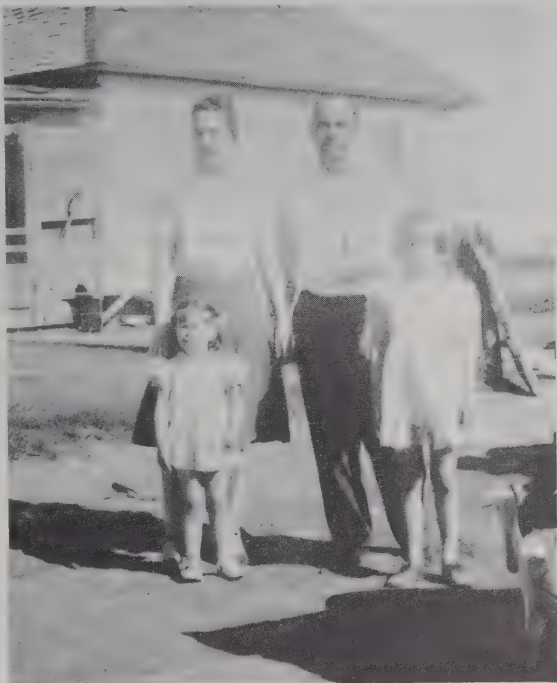
At one time, George was the largest stock buyer in South Dakota. He had many trainloads of cattle shipped into Agar from Texas and other southern states for feeding in his cornfields. During the twenties, he also made up a trainload of hogs every week that he purchased between Agar and Huron. At one time, he shipped 45 double-deck carloads of hogs to the Cudahy Packing Plant. He operated his own stock sale in Zaneta, Iowa, from 1934 to 1939. Fairbank and John Blaine were partners in the elevator business in Agar for 20 years. The partners were also Farmall dealers. Fairbank used the first Farmall in his farming operations and it was not until then that people were convinced that the new invention really worked. The following year, Blaine and Fairbank had all the Farmall business they could take care of.

George passed away March 20, 1940. Mrs. Fairbank continued to live on the farm with her son, Orville, and later moved to the Waverly Hotel in Pierre and then to a Good Samaritan Home in Groton, South Dakota.

Charles Fairbank married Doris Junkman on June 24, 1929. They have

two daughters, Helen and Jean. The family lived on the home place for about two years and then moved to Agar, later moving to Huron, South Dakota, where they still reside.

Orville married Emma Brasel, of Pierre, in May, 1948, and they are still living on the home place.



Mr. and Mrs. Charles Fairbank and daughters. In 1940, before the house was remodeled.



Michael Schlachter Homestead

On April 22, 1901, Michael Schlachter took a patent on the Southwest of Five in Farmington Township. Since that time the

land has changed ownership many times and at present is owned by Gus Fransen.

Some of the families who lived on this place were Gus Fransen, William Anderson, Harve Neidert, Axel Mikkelsen and Ben Westphal.

The William Anderson family lived there from 1920 to 1922. They had six daughters and one son. Their youngest daughter, Sister M. Evangeline, is the president of Mount Marty College at Yankton, South Dakota.

Axel Mikkelsen lived there from 1922 to 1924, when the Harve Neiderts moved on it until 1927. The Neiderts had three daughters and four sons. Mr. Neidert passed away in 1925. Axel Mikkelsen then moved back and again lived there until 1930.

The Ben Westphal family moved to this place in 1930, and occupied it until 1941, when they moved to Garner Township. The Westphals have four daughters; Inez, Lois, Donna and Shirley, who are all married.

The house was later sold and moved to Gettysburg and the land is now owned by Cal Brehe.



The Bouchie Family

Mr. and Mrs. Earl Bouchie moved to Sully County in the fall of 1902, immediately after their marriage at De Smet, South Dakota. They homesteaded in Section 19 of Farmington Township where they lived until September, 1935, when they moved to Oregon. Mrs. Bouchie passed away in April, 1953, and Mr. Bouchie, in October, 1955. Six children



Mr. and Mrs. Earl Bouchie. Newlyweds in 1902.



Earl Bouchie Homestead in Farmington Township, 1919. Left to right — Dick and Helen on the horse, Hazel, Mrs. Bouchie, Mr. Bouchie, and Tom, Marjorie and Cub on the other horse.

were born to the Bouchies; Forest, Hazel, Claude, Helen, Elliott and Marjorie.

Their first son, Forest, was born in 1904. He married Bertha Osborne in 1927, and they lived in Sully County until 1933, when they moved to Oregon. They have three girls, all married, and three boys at home.

Their second child, Hazel, married Howard Teets in 1926, and they lived in Sully County until 1935, when they also moved to Oregon. They have three boys and one girl, all married, except the youngest boy, who is serving in the Air Force in France.

Claude married Pearl West in 1927, and they lived in Sully County until 1936,

when they, too, moved to Oregon. They have two boys and one girl, all married.

Helen married Orin Schollian in 1934 and they made their home in Torrington, Wyoming, until 1937, when they moved to Oregon. They have three boys and one girl all at home.

In 1937, Marjorie married L. Ray Cass and they have lived in Farmington Township since that time, now residing on his father's homestead in Section 34. They have three boys and three girls all at home except the oldest boy who is in the Navy, stationed at San Diego.

In the fall of 1937, Elliott married Eileen Rausch and they have lived in Farmington Township since that time, building up a place on Section 32. They have three boys and two girls all at home except the oldest boy, who is working in New Mexico.



Cavanaugh Family

James Cavanaugh came to South Dakota in October of 1903, from Diresville, Iowa, with a land agent. He stopped at Pierre, and the next day hired a livery team and drove about 20 miles northeast where he purchased a quarter of land for \$800.00, which was about twice what it was actually worth at the time. In 1908, he bought the West half of Section Three and this has been the location of the home since that time. Mr. Cavanaugh still owns the homestead quarter in addition to other land in the vicinity. On August 4,



Earl Bouchie, at the steering wheel, and Buford Silbaugh. At the State Fair.

1904, he went to Gettysburg, South Dakota. There had been plenty of rain that year and the prospect for a wheat crop had been good, but about ten days previous to harvest, black rust appeared and the crops were practically ruined. Not many acres made more than two bushels of thirty pound wheat. Mr. Cavanaugh obtained a job transferring coal, making hay and delivering gas and kerosene, as his employer had the Standard Oil Agency.

In the early years, he "batched" and taught school. Having attended Iowa Teacher's College at Cedar Falls, Iowa, he took a teacher's examination under County Superintendent Mary Savage at Gettysburg. In 1904-1905, he taught the Rausch School in Artichoke Township, Potter County. The school at the time stood a mile north of what is now the Arnold Schreiber home. He boarded at the John Todd home in Sully County. The north school in that district closed about six weeks before his, whereupon the pupils came to his school, giving him a total of 37 pupils. Among those pupils was a young girl, Nettie L. Barr, who became his bride ten years later, in 1914. The first four years after their marriage they lived in a one-room shack, but a new house was built in 1918. This house was not large, having a kitchen, dining room and two small bedrooms downstairs and the upstairs, having never been finished, was all one room. It may not have

seemed adequate to house a man and his wife and 11 children, but it did. In 1948, a large house was built and the old house sold and moved to Pierre. Twelve children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Cavanaugh but one child, Delores, died in infancy.

Mrs. Cavanaugh had also been a teacher before her marriage and took great pleasure in reading to her children, teaching them nursery rhymes and helping them with their school work. There was always a supply of good books and magazines in the Cavanaugh home and the children used them eagerly. Entertainment was mostly homemade and a trip to town was a treat seldom enjoyed by the children. Frequent summertime trips to the Missouri River were enjoyed by the whole family. Jelly and jam-making material in the form of grapes, chokecherries, buffalo berries and plums were also garnered on these excursions. One summer the family picnicked at the river eleven consecutive Sundays.

All the children graduated from the same school in Farmington Township and all graduated from Agar High School. Five boys served in the Army and one girl in the Waves. Three saw overseas duty; Donald in the South Pacific and Gerald and Eugene in Germany.

Three children are four-year college graduates, Donald from University of Minnesota, with a Degree in Mechanical Engineering; Gerald, from Bucknell University at Lewistown, Pennsylvania, in Civil Engineering, and Gertrude from the University of South Dakota, an Economics Major. Two other girls, Anna and Alice, had some college training, Anna at Mitchell Business College and Alice at N.S.T.C. at Aberdeen. The other children are Genevieve, Elsie, John, George, Eugene and Keith. George and Gertrude are twins, born the first day of the New Year in 1927.

All five girls and four of the boys are married. Donald married Margaret Svec, of Minneapolis, Minnesota, and is a plant engineer for Honeywell, of Minneapolis. Anna, now Mrs. Ralph Wetrich, lives in Aberdeen. Her first husband, Frank Reitz, died of cancer in 1950. Genevieve is Mrs. Ben Shoup and they farm in northeast Sully County. Elsie married Francis Shoup and they live a few miles northeast of Onida, also farming. Gerald is



Mr. and Mrs. James P. Cavanaugh and oldest son, Donald, in 1916.

employed by a firm of consulting engineers in Cincinnati, Ohio. His wife was the former Doris Bauman, of Somerset, Pennsylvania. Alice married a Navy man, Mike Evanick, of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and they are now living in St. Paul, Minnesota. Since their marriage they have lived in a number of places, including Guam and Trinidad. John is married to Eunice L. Gatons, of Onida, and is employed by the Onida Watchman as a linotype operator and printer. Gertrude is Mrs. Gordon Grieme and they are in Minnesota where he is doing road graveling. George, Eugene and Keith rent the home farm from their parents and supplement it with three or four rented quarters of land. They keep a herd of cattle and raise pigs. George has also been attending Brigham Young University at Provo, Utah, during the winter. Edna Bowman, of DeGrey, and Eugene were married in 1955.

The hard times hit the Cavanaughs along with everyone else. No one in the family went hungry, but there wasn't much candy or fancy food. They ate lots of corn bread and eggs — sometimes cooked over a cow chip fire because coal and even wood cost money and money was scarce. In the winter of 1936, there weren't even many eggs because the only livestock on the place was a borrowed cow and 12 old hens and the hens refused to lay all winter.

The hard years passed, however, and in the late thirties things improved. Crops began to grow again in 1938, and Mr. Cavanaugh took a herd of sheep on shares from Wm. Ruckle which supplemented the income for the next ten years. Another thing that helped considerably was Mr. Cavanaugh's being elected to the county auditor's office in 1946. He held this office for four years, driving the 20 miles to and from the farm daily. They went out of the sheep business in 1948, and each fall bought a bunch of spring calves which were held over a summer and fattened the following winter. At times this was very good business and that, along with some good wheat crops, settled up the debts and paid for a new house with running water, electricity and automatic heat.



The Currier Family

Melvin T. Currier was born in Wis-

consin, on February 18, 1856. He moved to Iowa with his parents later and lived there several years. Mary Rebecca Bouchie, who became his wife in 1878, was born May 13, 1861. In 1883, the family moved to Kingsbury County and in the spring of 1906, they located in Sully County. They homesteaded in Farmington Township where they lived until his death in 1922. Mrs. Currier lived for some time in Agar, later moving to Onida, where she passed away in 1938.

The Currier's had nine children, one son passed away in infancy. Two children, Ruth and Alfred, were married before 1906, and never lived in Sully County. The other six children, who were all married, were Willis, Clarence, Ernest, Gladys, Lester and Grace.

Clarence married Minnie Weischedel on May 26, 1915, and they made their home in Troy Township. They had three sons, Arnold, Marvin and Leslie, and twin daughters, Myrtle and Minnie Marie. Minnie Marie passed away in infancy. Arnold married Laura Todd, of Potter County, and they live in Oregon. Myrtle, Marvin and Leslie are also married and live in Oregon. The family left their farm in Troy Township in 1936, and moved to Oregon, where Mrs. Currier passed away in 1937. Mr. Currier has remarried and is living at Salem, Oregon.

Ernest married Viola Rilling and taught in the rural schools of Sully County for seven years, then after special training, he entered the ministry of the Methodist Church. He received his first license to preach in 1911, and retired in 1957, at Britton, South Dakota. They now live at Selby, South Dakota, where a daughter, Leora Mikkelsen, also lives. They have three other children, Wilbur, Virgil and Ursal. In 1936, Mrs. Currier's sister-in-law, Mrs. David D. Rilling, passed away leaving a seven-day-old son, James. The Currier's took him into their home and raised him as their own. James is now an officer in the Air Force.

Gladys married Arthur B. Todd, of Farmington Township where they lived until they retired and moved to Onida in 1946.

Lester married Ferne Pierce, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Francis Pierce of Hartford Township. They had two children, Melvin, who married Naomi Glee McGuire and lives in Hartford Township,

and Neoma, who teaches school in Minnesota. Pat Cullinan, Lester's nephew, also made his home with them. Lester left the farm in January, 1947, and moved to Onida at which time Melvin and his wife took over the farm. Lester passed away in April, 1955. His wife still lives in Onida.

Grace, now Mrs. Lot Cullinan, lives at Glendive, Montana. They have five children.

Willis married Mable Montz in 1905, and came to Sully County in 1907. They lived in Farmington Township for a short time, then filed on a claim in Perkins County, where two of their five children, Harold and Dorothy, were born in a sod house. In October of 1911, they proved up their claim and came back to Sully County and remained there the rest of their lives. They moved to the Melvin T. Currier farm in Farmington Township in 1921, when the elder Mr. Currier's health forced him to retire. They lived there until the dry thirties, when they moved to Onida, after a wind storm blew all the buildings on the farm away except the house. In 1939, they moved to Agar into the house formerly occupied by Grandma Currier and lived there until their deaths. Mable passed away December 21, 1941, and Willis, in January, 1946. Their oldest daughter, Fay Hart, is married and living in Billings, Montana. They have six children. Harold, who married Minnie Ripley, now lives in Hartford Township. They have five children, Janice, Duane, Gary, Cecil and Sandra. Donald married Edna Westphal of Potter County. They live in Onida and own and operate the Onida Produce. They have four daughters, Donna Lee, now married and living in St. Louis, Missouri, Brenda, Carol and Susan, at home. Dorothy is married to Harold Martin, and living in Onida. She is serving her second term as Deputy County Treasurer. They have one son, Larry, who is married and is now an art student at the State University of South Dakota. Larry and his wife have one daughter, Pamela. Evelyn, the youngest daughter, married Clinton Moore, and now lives at Seattle, Washington.



The Silbaugh Family

Isaac and Alice Silbaugh and two sons, Kenneth and Ross, came to Sully County about 1908, and bought part of

the Dave Fairbank ranch where Art Wittler now lives. The Silbaughs moved to Onida and operated the hotel there for a short time, then moving east of Onida and ranched for several years, after which he moved west of the river to Camp Crook.

Frank and Effie Silbaugh moved to Sully County about 1909, also buying a section of the Dave Fairbank ranch and building a set of farm buildings where Andrew Mikkelsen now lives.

A year later Mrs. Silbaugh died and son Buford took over the farm. In 1914, he married Rosella Olson and they, with their six children, farmed here until 1936, when they moved to Pine River, Minnesota. A daughter, Belva, married John Bauman about 1912. They and their two children resided in Onida until around 1940, running a general store for many years. Mae, another daughter, married Frank Mitchell who ran the bank in Agar for several years, later moving to Iowa and Minnesota where she died in 1922.



Mikkelsens

Mike Mikkelsen was born in Denmark, September 17, 1876. Annie Jensen, who later became his wife, was born June 21, 1877. This couple was married November 2, 1896, in Denmark. Mr. Mikkelsen spent eight months in the Danish Army before coming to the United States in 1903. They settled at Winside, Nebraska, where Mr. Mikkelsen worked on a farm until 1917, when they moved to Agar, South Dakota, on a farm which is now occupied by the Art Wittler family in Farmington Township. They arrived just in time to see a terrible blizzard and were unable to get feed for their livestock. They lived on several farms in Sully County before purchasing the farm which was to be their future home, in 1940. It is just around the corner from the farm they first lived on when coming to South Dakota.

In 1946, they bought a home in Onida, but a few months later moved back to their farm, where their son, Andrew, was living.

On November 2, 1956, they celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary, and only three weeks after the celebration, Mr. Mikkelsen was taken to the hospital

where he passed away two days later. Mrs. Mikkelsen still lives on the farm with her son, Andrew, and granddaughter, Rosalie.

Their first son, Jens Christian, was born in Denmark, on May 29, 1897. He was united in marriage to Cora McMillan at Wayne, Nebraska, on March 12, 1918. They moved to South Dakota, where their three sons were born, Alvin, Cecil and Virgil. Cecil passed away in childhood. Alvin married Vivian Walsh, of Pierre, and they have two daughters and three sons. Virgil married Carol Murrey in 1954, and they have two daughters.

Their first daughter, Dagmar, who was also born in Denmark, was married to Walter Anderson on September 14, 1919, at Gettysburg. One son, Arnold, was born to them. Dagmar passed away following the birth of a second son, who also died. Arnold married Florance Saunders at Blytheville, Arkansas, and a daughter, Carolyn Kay, was born to them in 1945.

Axel married Katherine Fast in 1924, and two sons and two daughters were born to them. Robert Lloyd married Marian Rodman in 1945. They have three sons, Maurice, Lauren, and Robert Lee. Darrell married Phyllis Ludwig. They have two daughters, Cynthia and Mona Jean. Jeannine and Jake J. VanDenEykel eloped and were married February 9, 1950, at Las Vegas, Nevada. They have two children, James and Vana Kay. Lillian is employed at the Highway Department at Pierre.

Betty and Eugene Bloodgood came to make their home with the Mikkelsen's following the death of their mother, Mrs. Cyril Bloodgood, of Huron, in 1935. Betty is married and lives at Dallas, Texas. Eugene is married and lives in Saco, Maine.

They lived on a farm in Farmington until 1936, when they moved to Garner Township. Bob and his family have resided on the farm since 1956. A new modern ranch home was erected in 1957. Other improvements include a new granary, quonset, cattle feeding building, four dams and a tree windbreak.

Marie Kristina married Fred Wilbur Weischedel at Gettysburg. Seven children were born to this couple. In 1922, twins were born, a boy and a girl. They were attended by Mattie Brehe and Doctor Hart. The twins were named Howard Raymond and Olive Marie. Howard mar-

ried Helen Anderson, of Gettysburg, in 1953, and they have two sons and one daughter. Olive married John Silbaugh in 1943, at Omaha, Nebraska, while he was serving in the Army. They have three sons and one daughter. In 1924, their daughter, Frances Elizabeth, was born. She married Raymond Zebroski at Pierre in 1946, and they have two sons and three daughters. Jacob Fredrick was born to the Weischedels in 1931. He married Kay Johnson, of Pierre, and they have two daughters and one son. Dale Eugene married Lavonne Rilling in 1959. Daniel Earl is now employed on the James Young farm. Margaret Ramona graduated from Onida High School in 1958.

The Mikkelsen's next son, Andrew, was born on September 12, 1905. He married Margaret E. Young, of Huron in 1927. They had one son, Michael Maynard, born in 1930. Margaret passed away in June, 1930. Michael served in the Marines from June 1951 to 1953. He married Margaret Rosalie McFarland in 1955, and they have three sons.

Their sixth child, Elizabeth Joanna, was born September 19, 1906. She married William Wallace Weischedel, on January 26, 1924. Rev. J. W. A. Collins of Gettysburg tied the marital knot. In 1925, their first daughter, Delma, was born at the Aunt Til McGuire residence in Onida. In 1955 she was married to Kenneth Newling, of Harrold, South Dakota. They have one son and one daughter. The Weischedel's second son, Raymond LaVern, married Maxine Kitchen in 1949, and they had one daughter, Charlotte Ann. Maxine passed away in June, 1951, and Charlotte Ann made her home with her grandparents. Raymond married Ramona Darlene Johnson in 1952, and they have a daughter. The third child born to the Weischedels was Rosalie Ruth, on March 6, 1931. Since 1951, she has been living at the home of her grandparents and caring for them. Conrad William married Reta Darlene Sandal, of Pierre, and they have two sons.

60th Anniversary Is Big Affair For Mr. and Mrs. Mike Mikkelsen

Mr. and Mrs. Mike Mikkelsen celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on November 4, 1956, at the Farmington-Troy hall located one mile south of their home.



Mr. and Mrs. Mike Mikkelsen, Sr. Celebrating their 60th Wedding Anniversary, 1956.

A noon dinner was served to over 100 people by the granddaughters of the honored couple. There were three long tables with color scheme of yellow and green carried out throughout the hall. Small book-like place cards, containing a photo of Grandpa and Grandma Mikkelsen, which was taken at the home of a granddaughter on Grandpa's 80th birthday, were made by Mrs. Kenneth Newling, their granddaughter.

Those catering for the two-course dinner were Mrs. Charles McFarling, of Fort Pierre, Mrs. Lorene Buck and Mrs. Kenneth Newling, of Pierre and Rosalie Weischedel, of Agar. Mrs. Jesse Venner had charge of the guest book which was signed by over 300 friends and relatives.

Mrs. Kenneth Newling acted as narrator of the Life Story of Grandpa and Grandma Mikkelsen which started in Denmark, in 1896, with grandchildren and great grandchildren dramatizing the most treasured events of their wedded life. Those present enjoyed a Danish hymn sung by Mrs. Mildred Sandberg, accompanied by her daughter, Kathleen.

Mrs. Mikkelsen, nee Anna Jensen, was a typical dairy maiden in Denmark,

milking 20 cows both night and morning, with Mr. Mikkelsen as a young foreman. It was at this particular place that the young couple's courtship began.

Following the program, a reception was held, with Mrs. Coleman Smith cutting and serving the wedding cake baked and decorated by Mrs. Kenneth Newling. Mrs. Henry Sunne, of Gettysburg, was at the coffee service. Mrs. Donald Martin favored with piano selections during the reception. Three grandsons had charge of displaying the gifts.

☆☆☆
The Wittlers



The Art Wittler Home in Farmington Township.

Henry Wittler, of Hartington, Nebraska, father of the Wittler brothers, Ernest and Art, came to Sully County in the spring of 1927, intending to purchase land. He bought the David Fairbank ranch, located seven miles west and one north of Agar, from Fred Wieble of Win-side, Nebraska.

In the spring of 1928, Ernest and Art came up from Hartington, Nebraska, farming and batching until the spring of 1930, when Art returned to Nebraska. On February 18, he married Dortha Townsend, of Tecumseh, Nebraska. On their trip to South Dakota, they encountered one of South Dakota's typical blizzards, reaching the ranch by walking the last mile.

The Wittlers have six children, Paul, Doris, Jo Ann, Shirley, Sylvia and Wayne.

The Wittler Brothers continued their partnership until 1937, when Ernest began farming the place known as the old Charlie Beshears farm, later purchasing it from Ralph Wagner.

GARNER TOWNSHIP

One of the first group of pioneering individuals, with visions of better opportunity and cheaper land than was to be had in the East, arrived in Sully County in the early part of 1883, and settled in what is now Garner Township. Included in this group were the Garners, Gibson, Shepherd and Smithson.

It didn't take these men long to build houses for their families and dig wells. As soon as living quarters were established, the men sent for their families. Mrs. J. N. Garner arrived on April 27, 1883, with their two children, Claude and Bertie, and her father, A. G. Biggs. A few hours later Mrs. W. E. Garner arrived with two children, Mellie and Newton. Others arriving about that time were the C. K. Mallock family, Tucker family, Mr. and Mrs. Philip Bigham, the Tagg family, the Moores, Smiths, Roman Spaid, the W. O. Brocks, Tisdale, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Ruckle, as newlyweds, and others.

The first school was called the Ruckle School and was first taught by J. N. Garner in 1888. After the Garners moved to Onida, he taught the Schreiber School and also in West Onida.

One of the first families to settle in Garner Township were the Doners. They arrived in September, 1883, and took up



Mr. and Mrs. Benton Doner and daughter, Ruth. Homesteaded in Garner Township in 1883.

three quarters of land in the township. Mr. Doner was a Sully County commissioner for four years. They moved to Potter County in the fall of 1895.



The Ruckle Homestead

The Southwest of 22 was homesteaded by Henry W. Ruckle in 1883. He was assisted in his farm work by his son, Harry, from 1918 to 1920. After Harry and his wife and two small sons moved to



Garner School, 1901. Back row, left to right — Jeff Shepard, Frank Ruckle and John Persson, teacher. Front row — Harry Ruckle, Florence Ruckle Dodson, Minnie Wilken, Anna Wilken, Elva Ruckle McGuire, Clara Ruckle Seaman and Albert Shepard.



The Henry W. Ruckle family, about 1906. Back row, left to right — Harry and Frank.
Front row — Clara, Elva, William, Mr. Ruckle and Florence.

Flandreau, South Dakota, another son, William (Bill) joined his father, in 1922, and a year later brought his bride, Louella Lange, to this home. A daughter, Calista Beth, was born to them in 1924, and another daughter, Dorothy, who died in infancy, in 1926.

After the death of his father, Bill moved to the present Hoover place in 1936, and the farm was rented to Earl Cass and later to Elmer Schlenker. In 1942, Harry moved back with his wife and daughter, and lived there until 1951, when the farm was sold to Chester Taylor of Texas. The next year Mr. Taylor sold to Fred Eldridge of Fort Pierre, who leased the farm to Tiny Meyers. Marvin Schumacher lived there during that time. Then in 1955, Tony and Grace Todd purchased the farm from Eldridge and moved on in the spring of 1956. Grace is the granddaughter of Henry W. Ruckle.



Mallock Homestead

Mr. and Mrs. Charles K. Mallock, son of William, twin daughters Sophia and Sarah, and daughter Isabella (later became Mrs. Ed Pierce) came from Iowa in 1883, and homesteaded on Southwest of 25 in Garner Township.

Mr. Mallock was a carpenter and constructed many buildings in that area, many of which are still in use, including the family home which until recently was

occupied by the Ralph Shoup family. He constructed the West Garner schoolhouse, known as the Byrum School, for \$200.00, furnishing all material and labor. He was a member of the first cemetery association and helped organize the first Methodist Church. At one time he was a justice of the peace.

Mrs. Mallock was known for miles around because she went to many homes to help care for the sick, assist at births and also to help with the laying out of the dead. She also kept travelers, furnishing them with board and beds. It was necessary that someone do this as travel was slow and people had to go long distances for supplies and for many other reasons. Many times all available space was full of beds including the floors, as no one could be turned away at night.

Sarah (Sadie) died in March 1884, of consumption. Sophia (Phi) married Chalmer Hill and moved away from Sully County several years later. She passed away in 1946. The funeral was held on May 3, the same day as that of Mrs. Bell Cole of Onida, an old family friend, at Wessington, South Dakota. Mrs. Pierce, (Isabella), who attended her sister's funeral, could not help but contrast it with that of the twin sister buried in 1884. At that time no undertaker was available, so friends laid out the body. A purchased coffin of wood covered with cloth was used. A spring wagon served as a hearse and friends gave geranium blossoms and

waxed flowers.

Mr. and Mrs. Mallock are both buried at Morning Sun, Iowa. She died in 1916, and he, in 1925.



The Cass Family



Mrs. George W. Cass

George W. Cass brought his family, of wife and three children, Jehiel, Hilie, Orson and Vena, from Iowa, in 1883. The fourth child, Earl, was born at Blunt in 1885. Mr. Cass filed for his tree claim, homestead and another quarter in Garner Township and built a small wood house and shed.

When Mrs. Cass passed away in 1889, the children came home, each driving a team of horses and wagon. Later Orson came to live with Hilie. They lived along

the creek during the grazing season with their stock and returned to the home place during the winter months. In 1899, Earl came to live with his brothers and worked in the neighborhood. When Vena had finished her education she came to live with her brothers and taught school.

Orson married Ida Flarrar in 1897, and they had one daughter, Myrtle. They moved to Portland, Oregon, where he passed away in 1939. Vena married Calvin Barber in 1904, and moved on a place near Okobojo. Earl and Martha Brandt were married in 1908, and lived on the home place where he and Hilie were in partnership. To this union six children were born: Emma married Boyd Chipman of St. Lawrence and they have two adopted children and live in Garner Township. Beulah married Raymond W. Sutton and they have three children, Alice, Beuna and Ray. They ranch in Potter County and maintain a home in Onida. Edith married Vernon Garrett and they have three children, Verneen, Cinda and James. Irene married Don Rilling and lives in Los Angeles, California. They have five children, Norma, Norman, Donna, Dorene and Larry. George married Erma Hank and lives on the Cass home place. They have five children, DaWayne, Newell, Janis, Charlene and Martha Sue. Harry married Bonnie Edlandson, of Highmore, and lives at Winner. They have a family of five children, Onita, Earl, Ricky, Colleen and Monte. Mr. Cass passed away in 1945.

Hilie homesteaded in Farmington Township about 1894, and on November 17, 1908, he was united in marriage to Effie Todd. They had seven children. The first two were twins and died in infancy. The others are Gertrude White, Genevieve Brehe, L. Ray, Roy and James W.

Gertrude was married to Clem White, April 24, 1929, and they live in Portland, Oregon, with their two children, Francis and Tobey. Genevieve married Adolph Brehe, Oct. 11, 1933. They have three children, Gale, now married and farming with his father, Kent and Joy. They live in Harrison Township. L. Ray Cass married Marjorie Bouchie, May 26, 1937, and they have six children. Larry, in the Navy, stationed at San Diego; Sharon, Timothy, Steven, Sheila and Marjean, all at home and living on the family homestead in Northeast of 34 in Farmington Township.



George W. Cass and Four Children. Back row, left to right — Vena (Mrs. Barber) and Earl. Front row — Jehiel (Hiley), Mr. Cass and Orson.



Mr. and Mrs. Hiley Cass and three of their children, Genevieve (Mrs. Adolf Brehe), Gertrude (Mrs. Clem White) and L. Ray, in 1916.

Mrs. Effie Cass has her own home on her son's farm, Hilie having passed away in 1939.

Roy Cass married Nellie Du Bois, June 3, 1939, and they live in Gettysburg with ten of their children. The oldest daughter is married and lives in Tennessee. James W. married Veda Neyhart, June 27, 1954, and live in Milford Township. They have one son, Jehiel William.



Aerial View of L. Ray Cass farm in 1958.



Mathias Asmussen Homestead

Mr. and Mrs. Mathias Asmussen emigrated from Denmark to Sully County, via Blunt, in 1885, with five of their children, Christian, Marie, Louise, Martin and Ingaborg (Bonnie). Mr. Asmussen filed on

the Southwest of Six in Garner Township, a mile or so to the northeast of the Kenneth Marsh farm home. The father and sons built some buildings and farmed on this land for about 15 years. Farming for Mr. Asmussen was a new undertaking, as he was a sea-faring man, operating a freighter service and deep sea fishing boats while in Denmark.

Four of their children had previously come to America, settling in Nebraska. They were Cecelia, Hans, Anna and Amy. Hans and Amy moving to other states at a later date. Of the 14 children, four died in infancy and Mary died at the age of 16.



Mr. and Mrs. Mathias Asmussen Pioneer Settlers of Garner Township.

Christian Asmussen filed on a homestead in Richvalley Township. Louise married James C. Lomheim and lived on a homestead in Hartford Township, later moving to Onida. Marie and Bonnie went to visit their brother and sisters in Nebraska, and located there.

Martin Asmussen, having lived in Garner Township for several years, spent some time at Northville, where he met his future wife. They were married in 1898, and later moved to North Dakota, and then to the Peace River country in northern Alberta, Canada, where they still reside. They raised ten children, most of them living in that area. Martin, who is 82 years of age, is the last one to represent that generation of the Asmussen family.

Mr. and Mrs. Mathias Asmussen sold the farm and in 1898, moved to Fremont, Nebraska, where they joined the other

children. Mrs. Asmussen died in 1905, and Mr. Asmussen, in 1912. Both are buried in the country cemetery near Leshara, Nebraska.



Frederick Brandt Homestead

Frederick Brandt came to America from Germany when a young man during the early eighties. He worked as a carpenter in Chicago and later in Pierre, where he was employed in building the courthouse. He met Anna M. Sebreiner in Blunt and married her on December 7, 1886, in Onida with the Rev. Norton officiating. Four children were born to this union: Alma, Paul, William and Margaret.

It was in the Brandt home where the Lutheran Church was first started before the church was built in 1909, and later moved to Agar.

Fred Brandt farmed and raised stock with the help of his two sons until he was unable to work and then the boys took over. Fred passed away on December 26, 1928, and his wife, Anna, on September 25, 1950.

Alma is now Mrs. Weidemann and lives in Sioux Falls; Paul's address is Agar; William F. was married to Jennie Orsborn on June 27, 1923, and they have three children. Donald, who married Irma Weischedel, lives in Rapid City with his wife and two children, Linda and



Fred Brandt Family, 1900. Back row, left to right — Alma and Paul. Front row — Mrs. Brandt holding Margaret, and Mr. Brandt with William.

Ricky; Doris, now Mrs. Joseph Smith, living near Paris, France, with her husband, who is in the Air Force, and William H., who is married to Jackie Reed, of Pierre, and lives in Rapid City. They have two children, Debra and Mark. William F. has lived on the same place for 62 years.



Carl Brandt Family

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Brandt and small daughter, Martha, came here from Germany about 1893. They worked for a couple of years and then homesteaded in Garner Township. At first they built a sod



Brandt School, 1906. Effie (Todd) Cass, Teacher. Left to right — Unknown, Alice Brandt, William Brandt, Elsie Brandt, Maggie Brandt and Francis Doerr.



Fred Brandt Homestead, 1908

shanty and small shed and in 1906, dug an artesian well.

Two more girls were born to this union, Elsie and Alice.

Martha married Earl Cass; Elsie married Charles Simpson and moved to Shendoah, Iowa, and Alice married Sig Severson and they lived in Onida.

Mr. Brandt passed away in 1925, and Mrs. Brandt, in 1943.

Mr. and Mrs. Boyd Chipman moved on this place in March, 1933, and later bought it.



The Byrum Family

Charles E. Byrum came to Sully County in 1896, and in 1899, he married Mable M. Brooking. For a time they lived in a sod house on Section 20 in Garner Township and later purchased the homestead rights to the Northwest of Section 18 from Dan McGuire for \$20, where they established their home.

Five children were born into this family, one of whom, Forence Gertrude, died in infancy. Oliver lives in Troy Township, Elsie Lien now lives in Clark, Elezer



Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Byrum. Pioneers of Garner Township.

farms the original homestead and Stuart resides in Miller.



Elsie Byrum Lien and Clara Ruckle Seaman

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Byrum moved to Onida in 1926. Mr. Byrum established the Central Mutual Insurance Company, served in the State Legislature and later as county commissioner. Mrs. Byrum passed away in 1940. Mr. Byrum lived in Onida for a time and then moved to Clark where he is making his home with his daughter.

Mr. and Mrs. Elezer Byrum have three children, Phyllis, Elliott and Ardis.

Phyllis attended Yankton College and worked as a stenographer in Seattle, Denver and Los Angeles. She later married Joe Kozmata and have two children, Joe and Susan. They are now living in Canoga Park, California.

Elliott attended State College at Brookings for a short time before going into the Air Force for four years. He is married to Lois Sutton and they have three children, Kathy, Karla and Kurt.

He is now affiliated with John Sutton, Sr. in the garage and implement business in Onida.

Ardis attended Northern State Teachers College at Aberdeen. She has taught for three terms, two in Sully County and one in Harrold and will be teaching in Livingston, Montana, this fall.



Kiker Family

The Kikers came to Onida in August, 1950, looking for wheat to combine. They were so impressed with the beauty of the wide expanse of grassland and farming land that they purchased the Charles Schultz farm, five miles north and two east of Onida from W. B. Spears.

They moved on the farm March 6th, 1951, and were greeted by deep snow and blizzard conditions. The blizzard continued for six days before they could get to Onida. Fortunately they had stopped at Lamb's Store en route to the farm and laid in a week's supply of groceries.

Their first caller was Lloyd Clark, their nearest neighbor, who came over on his tractor to see about them.

The Kikers had previously farmed in Oklahoma and South Dakota, until they sold their farm home in Oklahoma, in 1956. They also purchased the Terbush farm three miles north of Onida where their son, Theo, and his family now reside.

GOODWATER TOWNSHIP

Goodwater Township was so named because of the many good wells which supplied sufficient water for the needs of the people settling in that area beginning in the spring of 1883. Among the first families to arrive in Goodwater Township were the Goddards, Metcalfes, Watsons, Langs, Littles, McGinnis' and others.

One of the first groups to organize were those interested in church and Sunday School and as early as that first summer, in 1883, a Sunday School was organized and met in the T. M. Goddard home, and occasional sermons were preached by the Reverends Barden, Faus and Loudon.

The first marriage in Goodwater was that of George Everett and Mrs. Hunsley. The first child born in the township was Richard Goddard, son of Mr. and Mrs. T. M. Goddard, on December 3, 1883. The first death in the township was Joseph Hunsley.

A postoffice was established on Section Nine, Goodwater Township, in October, 1884, with A. C. Goddard commissioned postmaster.

A social and literary society, known as the Farmer's Club, was organized in October, 1885, with W. H. Little, president, and A. E. Goffe, secretary. Meetings were held at the Goddard School. Those on the program for the first meeting were H. W. Pickard, A. E. Goffe and T. M. Goddard.



Weidemann School Picnic. 1938. Back row, left to right — Ardis Byrum, Avis Brandt, Betty Bloodgood, Mrs. Robert Pierce, Teacher, Bob Mikkelsen, Vernon Brandt, Donald Brandt, Eugene Bloodgood and Harry Cass. Front row — Doris Brandt, Erma Evans, Jeannine Mikkelsen, Darrel Mikkelsen, Betty Brandt, Ronald Evans and Elliott Byrum.



Mr. and Mrs. Frank Goddard. Pioneers of Goodwater Township.

A graveyard was established on the southeast corner of the T. M. Goddard homestead in April, 1886, with S. M. Keith, Elisha Pailen and Frank Goddard as its trustees.

Miss Matie Lang was the first teacher at the Goodwater School during the summer terms of 1885-86.

Many trees were planted in the township as soon as living quarters were established and the necessary wells and out-buildings were erected. H. W. Pickard was one of the first to plant 16,000 trees in the spring of 1887, with T. M. Goddard planting the same amount on his tree claim.



The Goddard Family

Frank Goddard came to Sully County in 1884, with his wife, Clara, and four small children. They lived in Iowa Township three years before moving to Goodwater. In 1886, Frank built a house on his homestead. During the following years, eight more children were born to make it "cheaper by the dozen," as the saying goes. Two other children were born, but died very early in life. Both Frank and Clara Goddard have passed on as have three daughters and a son; Mae Dorsey at Onida, Mary Calhoon at Sunland, California, Elsie Robinson at Priest River, Idaho, and John at Pierre. Of the eight children yet living, only Tom and Robert S. live in Sully County. Oss lives in Cal-

ifornia, Ben in Wyoming, Edith Moore in Illinois, Elta DeCamp in Iowa, Edna Kritzmire in Parker, South Dakota and Sarah Hoffstetter in Oregon.

The remaining decendants of Frank Goddard now living in Goodwater are his grandson, R. Guy Goddard and his family. Guy is the son of Robert and Carrie Goddard. In 1940, Guy was married to Violet Rieger in Los Angeles, and in April, 1942, they returned to Sully County from Glendale, California, bringing with them their six-month-old daughter, Barbara. Guy went into partnership with his father and purchased the Louie Svrko place, Southeast of Five, making this the fourth generation of Goddards living on this section. Steven, Truman and Gloria,



Four Generations of Goddards, 1946. Left to right — R. Guy and son Steven, Grandfather Robert Goddard and Great Grandfather Frank Goddard.

the other three Goddard children, were born in South Dakota.

Guy also purchased the Tree Claim quarter from his grandfather which had been planted in 1898, and died out in the late thirties during the dust bowl days. A new 18 acre tree plot has been started as a game reserve a mile east of the old one. Guy is serving on the Central Electric board of directors and is treasurer of the school board.



The Warne Family

Ed Yung came to Goodwater with his wife and young daughter, Lona, from Springfield, Illinois, and settled on the place now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Ed Warne. In 1917, the Yung family purchased the old Hamlink place one mile west and moved there. In June of the same year Lona, an only child, was married to Ed Warne, son of the late O. D. Warne, of Iowa Township. They purchased the farm that had been Lona's first home in Goodwater. Two sons were born to this union, Maynard, of Rapid City, and Leland (Lee) living in Goodwater.

In 1946, Lee returned home as a 1st Lieutenant after serving five years with the U. S. Army. He brought with him his recent bride, Helen, a girl from Tennes-

see. Helen had been working as a nurse before their marriage in August, 1945, at Chicago, Illinois. They made their home on his Grandfather Yung's ranch until 1950, when they moved to the Ed Warne ranch. Mr. and Mrs. Ed Warne then moved to their new home in Pierre. Lee now manages his father's ranch along with his own (the former Ed Yung ranch). Their children, Randy and Nancy, are the fourth generation that have lived on the Warne ranch and the third generation attending the Goodwater School. Lee is clerk on the schoolboard. He has served two terms as S. D. State Senator in 1953 and 1955, and in 1957 as S. D. State Representative. As everyone knows, the horse is rarely seen on most ranches in this township, but not so on the Warne ranch. They began raising Appaloosa horses in 1957, along with a fine herd of Hereford cattle which they have raised for years.



Charles Luecke came to Sully County in 1926 and in 1942, purchased the Tom Hunsley farm in Goodwater Township and began improving, enlarging and modernizing his ranch. In 1952, he was married to Mrs. Gladys Schmidt. Mr. and Mrs. John Hall and baby moved to the Luecke ranch after accepting employment there.



August Schieckoff came to Goodwater in 1944, with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Schieckoff, now of Pierre, and his three sisters, Mary Woffenden, of Pierre, Erna Watson, of Naches, Washington, and Bertha Gibson, of Tacoma, Washington. Mr. and Mrs. Walter Schieckoff and the two oldest daughters had previously lived on the Henry Heuer place in 1924. August was married to Lorraine Wagner, of Pierre, and after their marriage moved to the Walter Schieckoff farm after his parents moved east of Pierre. They have five small children, Fred and Robert in grade school, and Lilly Ann, Clifford and Margaret, the younger children.



Bernard (Bud) & Thelma Beastrom, formerly of Hughes and Hyde counties, accompanied by their young children, Sharon and James, moved here in the spring of 1950, to the Lon Daves place owned by W. T. McIlravy. A year later Betty joined the family group and in 1955, Terry was born. Bud is chairman of



Lee Warne and one of the Grand Champion Appaloosa colts, raised on the Warne ranch in Goodwater Township, 1958.

the local schoolboard. He was selected by the Pierre Jaycees in a local contest as the Outstanding Farmer for 1958. Mr. and Mrs. Beastrom both work with the young people of the community in 4-H work, Bud recently receiving his ten-year award in 4-H leadership.

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Goodwater School

Goodwater School opened in 1946, with four pupils, Erma and Stephen Spaid, Virgil Heuer and Deloris Watson, with Anna Dunkleburger as teacher. The school had been closed for ten years for lack of enough school age children in the township. By the year 1954, Goodwater was the largest school in Sully County with 17 pupils enrolled. Maxine McGruder, beginning her teaching career, instructed the classes.

In 1948 and 1949, Tom and R. S. Goddard reconditioned the schoolhouse, enlarged the study hall and built on an entrance and small teacherage. In 1952, the year of the floods, the school was moved two miles north to where it stood in the beginning of the history of Goodwater Township.

At that time the convenience of electricity and telephone were added.

During the spring flood of 1952, at least three families had to take the pupils part way by boat as all roads leading from Carlsons, Heuers and Goddards were either washed out or under two to three feet of water. In the past 20 years the following teachers have taught at

Goodwater: Wilbur Hofer, Mrs. Albert Walsh, Norma Jean Gould, Mrs. G. Grimes, Maxine McGruder, Mrs. Maynard Hofer, Claire Hoff and Eleanor Bever.

The schoolboard members 20 years ago were Roy Everett, treasurer, replaced by R. Guy Goddard; Ed Warne, clerk, replaced by Paul Patzer, then by Lee Warne; Henry Heuer, chairman, replaced first by his son Raymond and then by Bernard Beastrom. Former schoolboard members were replaced when they moved from the township.

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Ed and Iris Tobin moved to the George Day farm and accepted management in March, 1954. Mr. Day and his wife, Susie, now live in Onida. The Tobins have four school children, Jeanette and Audrey attending Agar High School, and Bob and Sharon in the grades. The Tobins have been Sully County residents since their marriage in 1937. Their daughter, Jeanette, is now Mrs. Ray Wagner, of Sioux Falls, and has two small children, Marlene and Billy Ray. Audrey is finishing her second year at Grace Bible Institute at Omaha, Nebraska.

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Kermith and Florence Edge moved here from Hyde County to the former Ed Yung place in August, 1954. They have five daughters, Sharon, Shirley and Carol, grade school age, and Connie and Kandy not yet old enough to attend school. Kermith was employed by Lee Warne to help on the ranch. A year later in 1955, another daughter, Faun, was born and



A Unique Way of Getting to School. The four Goddard children and Worth Carlson first rode one and a half miles, then boated across the lake bed and finally walked two miles in order to get to the Goodwater School during the flood in 1952. Guy Goddard at the oars.

joined the quintet of girls. Kermith is the son of Mrs. Claude Blaisdell of West Onida Township.



Goodwater Union Sunday School

A group of Goodwater patrons met in April, 1955, at the Goodwater School, for the purpose of organizing a Goodwater Union Sunday School, and in this way bring Christian education to the many children who otherwise would not be able to regularly attend Sunday School. Mrs. Lee Warne was elected superintendent, Lee Warne, vice-superintendent and Mrs. Ed Tobin, secretary and treasurer. Dick Seaman was chosen as teacher for the adult class, Mrs. Guy Goddard for the junior class and Mrs. Bernard Beastro for the primary class. Average attendance was about 40 members, with families coming from Clifton and Goodwater Townships.

Daily Vacation Bible School has been held at Goodwater School one week every summer since the Sunday School was organized with about 20 pupils graduating each year. Audrey and Sharon Tobin, Barbara Goddard and Shirley Edge taught several years in other Bible schools, as well as assisting in their own. Audrey Tobin is now enrolled in her second year in missionary nurses training at Grace Bible Institute, Omaha, Nebraska.



Don and Elsie Millard and small daughter, Pam, arrived in Goodwater Township in 1956, to work at the Warne ranch. They moved here from near Blunt after Don served in the Armed Forces. In 1958, a son, Sam, was born.



Goodwater Mission Circle

In December, 1956, the ladies of Goodwater Sunday School met and with the help of Mrs. H. Storer of Harrold, the Goodwater Mission Circle was organized. Many bandages have been rolled, scrapbooks and flannelgraphs made, financial aid given and blessings asked for the many missionary speakers who visited Goodwater Circle and Sunday School. Some of the visiting missionaries were Hilda Swanson, Helen Vetter, Mr. and Mrs. Merle Bloom, Edith Taylor, Iuka Uchida, Theida Krieger, John Remple, Mr. and Mrs. Grant and others.

Officers for 1958 are Mrs. Ed Tobin,

superintendent; Mrs. Frank Goddard, secretary and treasurer, and Mrs. Lee Warne, vice superintendent.

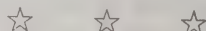
The Goodwater Mission Circle and Sunday School charter members are Mrs. Fern McKee and Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Currier and Roger, of Garner Township; the Frank Goddard, Dick Seaman, Lyle Hunsley and Lyle Ebert families from Clifton and the Lee Warne, R. Guy Goddard, Ed Tobin, Bernard Beastro and Kermith Edge families of Goodwater.



Al and Inez Genzler and children Martha, Jerry, Patricia, Daniel and Norma moved to Goodwater from Aberdeen in 1958. Al served in the Navy two years after World War II and is now employed by Frank Goddard of Clifton Township.



Some of the people who have moved away from time to time for various reasons in the past twenty years are Henry and Roxa Heuer and children, Paul and Henry Patzer and parents, George Day, Jean Hulls, Lon Daves, Loren Thomas, Roy and George Everetts, Tom Hunsley, Harlan Hansons, Marshall Farries, C. J. Carlsons, Floyd Bakers, Starkeys, Lester Spadds and the Masons.



GRANDVIEW TOWNSHIP

Grandview Township was so named because of the magnificent expanse of rolling hills and smooth prairies that could be seen from the Sully Buttes, and also the abundance of water and range land along the Okobojo Creek.

Some of the first settlers to arrive in Grandview Township in the spring of 1883, were Thomas Mitchell, James McGowan and sons, A. J. Ashcroft, Thomas Crawford, the Stull brothers, the Seelys, Thomas Lytle, the Andersons, Art Harlow and a number of others. Mr. Harlow had an experience probably never equaled elsewhere. In 1820, he voted for the Constitution under which the state of Maine went into the Union, and after a lapse of 69 years, he again voted for a Constitution under which South Dakota joined the sisterhood of states.



The Garrett Family

Edward J. Garrett, born May 4, 1856, came to Dakota Territory in 1882, from



Mr. and Mrs. Edward J. Garrett. Pioneers of Grandview Township.

London, England, where he was a book-keeper. He married Suzana Gilson, also from London, on July 6, 1886. This was the first marriage in the township. They had four sons, Edward Albert (Bert), Ernest H., Thomas G. and Geoffrey R.

Edward Albert was born April 8, 1887, and has lived all his life in Grandview Township near the place where he was born. He married Henrietta Bane, of Pontiac, Illinois, in 1913. They have two children, Vernon and Ruth. Vernon lives on the home ranch in partnership

with his father. He married Edith Cass, of Agar, and they have three children, Verneen Kay, Cinda Mae and James Edward. Ruth married Raymond Heinold and they live in Pierre.

Ernest was born November 21, 1889. He was killed in an accident March 2, 1935. He was married to Beth Knox, who is now living in California.

Thomas was born January 2, 1891. He lived on and near the old homestead most of his life in partnership with his brother Geoff, but the partnership is now



Aerial View of Bert and Vernon Garrett Ranch, 1958



The Four Garrett Brothers, 1925. Left to right — Geoff, Tom, Ernie and Bert.

dissolved and he lives in Palo Alto, California. Thomas married Edna Odemark, of Pierre.

Geoffrey was born in 1893, and served from 1917 to 1921 in the World War I. He married Edith Sutton, of Agar, in 1932. They have four children, Ina, Glen, Roger and Jean Marie. Ina is married to Kenneth Binkley and has three children, Lisa, Mark and Timmy, and they live in Brookings. Glen, who is now living on the ranch, married Betty Hinsey and has two children, Bradley and Jeffrey. Roger is a student at State College, Brookings, and Jean Marie attends Pierre High School.

Mrs. Edward Garrett passed away on January 14, 1938, and her husband died a few months later near Okobojo on October 8, 1938.

The Floyd Homestead

William Floyd and his wife, Frances, came to Dakota Territory in 1883. Mr. Floyd was a direct descendant of the William Floyd, who was one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, William engaged in farming and stock raising and in 1918, was one of the wealthiest men in Sully County, subscribing liberally to both Liberty Loans. He purchased the Spring Creek Ranch from Chris Johnson and had the contract to furnish beef to the soldiers at Fort Sully until the fort was abandoned in 1894. It was known as the "Butcher Ranch" on Spring Creek. This ranch was taken over by the government in 1958, as part of the Oahe project.

The Floyds had five children, Frances, William, Jr., Benjamin, Sarah and Alden. William, Jr. and Benjamin live on the original Floyd homestead where they were born and raised and still engage in raising horses and cattle as their father before them. William, Jr. married Florence Stebbins and they have one child, William VI. Benjamin has never married and lives with his brother. Frances Christensen is a widow and has one daughter, Orsa, who is married and lives in Sioux Falls. Sarah (Sadie) Wagner lives in Long Beach, California, and has a married son. Alden, who married Eileen Arthur, has three daughters, Naomi, Gretha and Lois, all married. Alden passed away August 5,



"Butcher Ranch" on Spring Creek. Owned by William Floyd, Sr., in the early days, and now owned by the Floyd Brothers.



West Grandview School, 1921. Last day of school. Homes Roach, teacher. Children from Grandview and Little Bend Townships.

1955. William, Sr., passed away in Long Beach, California, in 1950, at the age of 91.



A schoolhouse was built on Section 20 during the summer of 1885, and the first teacher was Mrs. Annie Yates.

The Bunch Family

Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Bunch arrived in Dakota Territory in 1883, and homesteaded in Grandview Township and lived there until Mrs. Bunch passed away in 1935. Mr. Bunch died August 14, 1938.

Four children were born to Mr. and



Grandview School, 1900. Icapphine Bunch Millet, was the teacher.

Mrs. Bunch, George, Florence, Ivan and Earl.



The Bagby Family

Mr. and Mrs. James Bagby left their home in Kentucky in the early spring of 1883, and headed for Dakota Territory. They filed on a claim on the Southeast of 18 and made their home in a three-room dugout with wooden floors until they purchased the old Bunch Hotel and had it moved and made into a home.

The Bagbys raised 13 children in Grandview Township. Ralph, who died during the flu epidemic in 1919; Robert, who was a mail carrier in Pierre for many years; Roy, of St. Paul, Minnesota; Roscoe, a railroad conductor in Huron for many years; Raymond, of Pierre; Rolland, who passed away of the flu in 1918; Randolph, postmaster in Pierre; Bessie, who married George W. Lumley, Jr., in September, 1902, and was a teacher in Sully County and a telephone operator in Onida for many years; Blanche Baker, also a teacher in Sully County; Bertha Bunch, teacher and telephone operator; Beulah Glessner; Bettina Carlson, of Pierre, and Bernice.



The Bush Family

Mr. and Mrs. William Bush homesteaded in Buffalo Township in 1883, where five children were born. The family moved to Blunt, South Dakota, where



Mr. and Mrs. John P. Bush. Early settlers of Grandview Township.

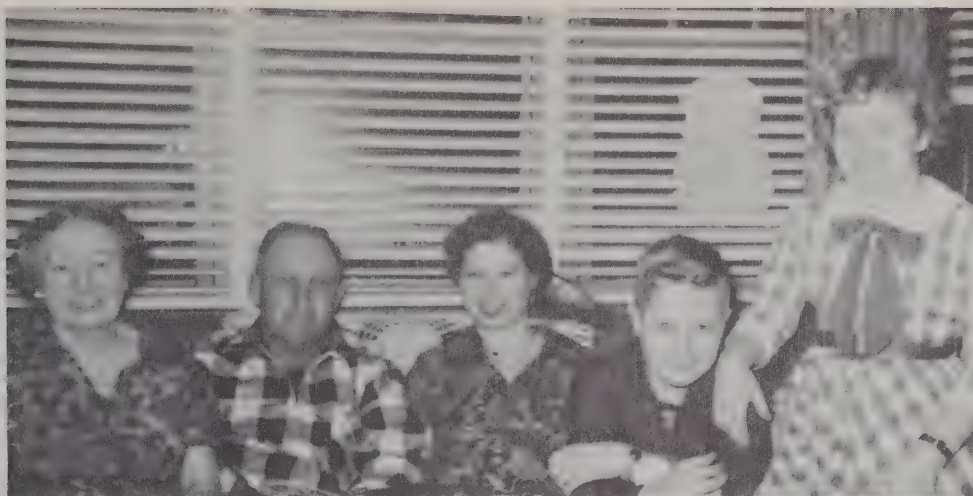


The John W. Bush Family. Residents of Grandview Township.

John P. grew to manhood. He was section foreman in Blunt for five years and in 1908, married Emma Pitlick. The young couple then moved to Grandview Township and in the spring of 1910, purchased the J. M. Pitlick, Jr., homestead. John and Emma had twin girls, Rose and Mary, and two weeks after their birth, Emma passed away.

John P. then married Emma's sister, Mary, and they had five children. John W., the oldest, married Luella Smith and they have three children and three grandchildren. John W. and his family live on the Pitlick place, the former William Johnston homestead. Charles died when a few months old. Hazel married Art Baumberger and they live on the old John N. McCray place. Alice is married to Gilbert Smith and they have four children and one grandchild. They live on the Elmer Figgne place. Rose married Laurence Venner and they have three children and three grandchildren. Rose's twin sister, Mary, is married to Albert Rilling and they live in Los Angeles.

Emmett J. Bush met his wife at an airbase in Washington, while he was serving with the United States Air Corps. She was a city girl and had never lived on a farm or ranch. Upon his discharge in February, 1944, Mr. and Mrs. Bush came to Sully County and purchased a section of land known as the Speece place. Since that time, Emmett has farmed his land, together with a portion of crop land owned by his father. In 1952, Emmett and his wife built a new home, two new barns, a double garage, cattle shed and corrals.



Emmett J. Bush Family, 1958. Left to right — Mrs. Bush's mother, Mr. and Mrs. Emmett Bush, and two children.

They have two children, a boy and a girl, who attend the West Fairbank School. Mrs. Bush's mother makes her home with her daughter and family.



Four Generations of the Bush Family. Left to right — John W., Jeffrey, John LeRoy and John P. All born in Sully County.



The Fred West Family

Mr. and Mrs. Fred West, along with their son Harold and two daughters, Nora and Gladys, came to South Dakota in the year of 1917, from Dean, Iowa. They built a sod house and settled down on their homestead near Coal Springs, South Dakota.

This was during World War I and times were very tough especially on the prairies of western South Dakota. Their fuel consisted of cow chips gathered from the prairies, and many a jack rabbit got in the stew pot for an evening meal. Most of their clothes were home spun and many times for shoes Dad's mittens were tried on for the cause.

In the year 1917, a son was born and named Sterling, and as doctors were so

many miles away, a neighbor lady came and helped with delivery.

Mr. West got a job hauling mail and with his team and buggy made a 20-mile trip three times a week and many times a blizzard would hit him en route and his horses would have to guide him across the prairie home.

Nora, Gladys and Harold were fortunate in having one horse between them to go to school and, as there was only room for two, they would take turns riding and walking.

The Wests lived in their sod house until 1922, and then moved to Isabel, South Dakota, where Mr. West went in coal mining business. Another son, Wendell, was born that year. As the coal mining business wasn't quite to Fred and Mary's liking, they moved to the Little Bend, west of Onida, in 1926. The first year they lived on Mission Island and that year Melvin was born. After a few years on the Island, the Wests moved back to the Bend on the former Ergo Hull place. Fred continued his farming and ranching besides working for James Sutton, who at that time had a large ranch in the Bend. Mr. West also trapped furs which at that time were quite numerous. In 1929, a son was born named Lowell. Shortly after, the West family moved back on the Island and lived there until 1943, when their home was flooded and the Island was ruined for farming. It was then that they bought their present home on the flat, the old Avery Chapman farm.

Nora married Merle Badger in 1922, and they have lived in this territory ever

since. They have 11 children. Gladys was united in marriage to Jay Alexander in 1928, and they have two children. Harold was married to Alice Flood in 1946, and they helped the grandchildren list with two boys and a girl. Sterling was married to Marion Warner in 1937, and they have two boys and two girls. Wendell was married to Delores Rilling in 1946, and to them three boys were born. Melvin was married to Bonnie Boone of Olympia, Washington, in 1947. They have six children. Lowell married Catherine Serbousek and they have three children.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred West have seven children, 31 grandchildren and 29 great grandchildren. They celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary at the Okobojo Hall in West Sully on October 12th, 1958.

Along with their hardships, hard work and toils, the Wests have had many years of happiness and through these years have both retained good health.

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There are second and third generation families still living in Grandview, such as Jay Alexander, son of Jay, Sr., who homesteaded in 1886; Gene Stampe lives on the old Lytle farm; Marvin Kennedy is a second generation farmer; Fred McQuiston is on the old Jenkins ranch; Ward Groseclose, whose grandfather was James Groseclose, is a third generation resident, William Galliger still lives on

the homestead of his father, and numerous other families.

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HARRISON TOWNSHIP

Some of the first settlers to homestead in Harrison Township in the spring of 1884, were Carl Falkenhagen, John Falkenhagen, Hugh McKay, John Pflugmacker, Chris Lielke and possibly others. That fall John Falkenhagen built a stone basement on his father's land and it was there that church services and Sunday School were held.

Others to settle in the township during the eighties were Patrick Kane, Chris Holmes, Hugh McKay, Perry and Scott Raukin, Chris Hartman, Douglas Archer and Dr. Laughlin, who had a shack on the Southwest of Seven, but lived in Onida. William J. Merrill came in 1900.

The horse barn, belonging to Patrick Kane on the Northwest of 27, together with three work horses, five or six sheep, 30 tons of hay, wagon hay rack, harrow and harnesses, were destroyed by fire on October 2, 1897. Another disaster was that which happened to Hugh McKay, when his new barn on his ranch, completed in 1902, was blown over and completely wrecked in the windstorm on August 1, of that same year. It was a 40x80 foot building, costing \$1,000.00. Two of



Pupils at Grandview School, 1957. Back row, left to right — Emmett Truman, Fern Barber, teacher, Jacky Alexander and Spike Jones. Front row — Verleen Garrett, Wayne Kelly, Cinda Garrett, Sandra Kelly and Billy Floyd. Little one — Donna Kelly.



Camp Merit, California, during June and July, 1898. First South Dakota Regiment, shown at center background where William J. Merrill was stationed during the Spanish-American War.

his calves were also killed during that storm.



The Doerr Family

Mr. and Mrs. Chris Doerr and their two children, Erhart and Caroline, and Mr. Doerr's mother, Kathryn Doerr, arrived in Sully County in 1884, from the state of Illinois. Both Mr. Doerr and his mother took out a homestead and tree claim southeast of Okobojo Creek. They built a sod barn and a small sod house where they lived about 10 years. Erhart went to school at Waterford in Garner Township. C. R. Garner was his teacher. Then they moved a three room house on the place and lived in it until 1907. In 1904, Chris removed the sod barn and in its place built a large frame barn. He also moved the sod house off the place. In 1906, he dug an artesian well which supplied the family with an abundance of good water. He built a two-story brick house in 1907, the first of its kind in that area.

Two more children were born during this time, Chris, Jr., and Francis. Erhart was married to Mary Salvatori, of Farmer, South Dakota, in 1916. They bought the old Kuhl place, next to his father's homestead. Erhart and Mary had four children. Caroline, who had married William Mundt, passed away in 1915.

Chris, Jr., is married and has six children. They live in Shakapee, Minnesota, where he owns a store. Francis passed away, leaving his wife, Louise, and eight children, who live in the brick house. Grandmother Doerr died in 1905.



The first schoolhouse in the township was located on the Southeast of 19 with Jessie Farnsworth as the first teacher. Then in 1901, East Harrison School was built and later in 1915, the West Harrison



West Harrison School, 1937. Miss Lauretta Mundt teacher. Back row, left to right—Gerald Doerr, Kathleen Kane and Charles Wagner. Middle row—Pat Kane and Clarence Wagner. Front row—Dorothy Wagner and Francis Kane.

School was built, with Alfred Christopher as the teacher. Miss Lauretta Mundt, Gertrude Yoachim and Miss DuBois also taught at West Harrison. Mrs. Helen Archer was the teacher in 1958.



Henry Olson Family

In the fall of 1907, Henry Olson homesteaded in Stanley County and at the same time worked in the Livery Stable at Onida. Then in 1914, he sold horses in Canada for Ed Sutton and the following year, started farming for himself at the Laurel Corner and moved to the old Ripley place which he farmed in 1917-18.

He was married to Anna C. Fransen in 1918, and at that time purchased a farm in Harrison Township and moved there in the spring of 1919. The Olsons lived there for 20 years where their family was born and raised. Then in 1939, they moved to the old Price farm south of Agar and after the house burned, the family moved to the Peterson farm. A house was purchased and moved to the Price farm and in 1945, the Olsons moved back. They own and operate the farm, but Mr. Olson retired from active work in 1957.

Their four children graduated from Agar High School. Albin lives on a farm west of Onida; Ella, now Mrs. Albert Brehe, lives west of Agar; Royal is with his father on the farm, and Anna Mae, Mrs. Leo Weischedel, lives in Agar.



HARTFORD TOWNSHIP

Frank Collins and James Porter were possibly the first settlers to file claims in Hartford Township. The first lumber brought into the township was on April 27, 1883, to build Porter's shack. Nathan and Robert Porter filed claims the same day.

During the following months many more claims were filed by those seeking cheap land. Included in the wave of settlers were T. G. Phillips, Mrs. Stockton, who was the first woman to file, Harry E. Stockton, N. O. Herried, Edwin E. Brooking, Eric Spitz, the Thram brothers, Coe Byrum, John Gerlach, George Gasperich, John F. Cole, and many others.

The first election was held at the

home of Mrs. Stockton in September, 1883, at which time the name "Hartford" was chosen for the township.

John W. Carpenter secured the contract to erect two schoolhouses, 18x20 feet, in Hartford Township in August, 1884, at a total cost of \$930.00. Miss Frankie Winters of Clifton taught the Hartford School in 1884. Other early-day teachers were Mrs. J. F. Cole, who taught the spring term in District One, commencing May 3, 1886, and Mrs. E. E. Brooking, who taught the school in the Brooking District in the spring of 1886.



Patrick J. Walsh Family

The Patrick J. Walsh family was one of the earliest settlers in Hartford Township, having filed on land in Section 34 in 1883. There were six children, William P., Frank, Walter, Albert, Margaret and Leonard. They received their education in the Walsh School, located on the Northeast of 27, and later moved to the Northeast of 29, when it was combined with the Porter School, thus making one school in the township. John Walsh, who was the blind brother of Mrs. Walsh, made his home with them until his death.

The Walsh family acquired considerable land which was used for making hay and grazing livestock. They also raised many horses.

After the parents passed away in the thirties, William P., Frank and Margaret operated the ranch. Albert married and raised a family of seven children. Albert passed away about 1956. His wife is a school teacher of many years standing. After William P. passed away in 1958, Leonard joined Frank and Margaret in operating the ranches. As far as is known, Walter and his family reside in Nebraska.

The Walshes have the distinction of being one of few who have lived continuously on the land which they homesteaded in 1883. William P. and Frank never left the farm home, until William P. died.



George Gasperich Homestead

Mr. and Mrs. George Gasperich came to Sully County in 1885, and filed on the Northeast of 13 in Hartford Township. They acquired land in Section 14 and moved to the Southeast of this section, building a set of farm buildings where they could get water for livestock by

building a dam, and later a shallow well at this dam, pumped by a windmill.

Mr. and Mrs. Gasperich had four children, Frank, Lawrence, Margaret and Helen. Frank and family reside in the state of Maryland. Margaret was a school-teacher before her marriage to Vincent Malleszewski. Margaret has passed away and Vincent still owns land in Sully County, which he looks after from time to time. Helen died while quite young.

Mr. and Mrs. Gasperich passed away in the thirties after long spells of illness.

Lawrence still owns the original homestead of his father. He lives in Onida and rents the homestead and part of the land to Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Weischedel, and some farm land to Jake Weischedel. Both Jake and Gerald are grandsons of J. G. Weischedel, an early pioneer of Pearl Township.



The Brooking Family

Edwin E. Brooking filed on a homestead on the Northwest of 23 and moved his family there in April, 1884. Edith Brooking married Robert N. Porter, one of the youngest of the early homesteaders, and Grace married A. C. Byrum. H. A. Brooking and his family lived on the land homesteaded by his father, and his daughter, Mrs. Ardis Gatons, and her family resided there for some time.

James Brooking, his wife Ruby, and four children, Janice, James, Jr., Herbert Royal and Robyn, now live on land which

includes the original homestead. It is interesting to note that Janice, now attending South Dakota State College, and James, Jr., have attended and Herbert Royal is now attending the same school once taught by their great grandmother, Mrs. E. E. Brooking.



The Ripley Family

George and Christena Ripley and their nine children came to Sully County from Austin, Minnesota, in the spring of 1884, and homesteaded in what is now Hartford Township, on the Northwest of Section Eight.

This pioneer family experienced all the trials and tribulations of early pioneer life and the raising of a large family. For a time they hauled water from Okobojo Creek, with a team of white oxen, a distance of eight miles.

Their oldest daughter, Lucy, married William Gerlack in February, 1882.

William married Mary Napier and to this union were born two daughters, Maud (Mrs. O'Brien) and Marguerite (Mrs. Richard Randolph), both of whom have passed away. Richard Randolph taught school in Little Bend Township during the thirties. William passed away in 1949, at the age of 80.

Frank married Josephine Groseclose and to this union three children were born; Walter, who is at present a resident of Onida, having spent his entire life in



Mr. and Mrs. Edwin E. Brooking. Pioneers of Hartford Township.



Mr. and Mrs. Ernest E. Brooking. Son of Edwin E. Brooking.



Ripley Homestead in Hartford Township, 1890. Left to right — George Ripley, Mrs. Ripley (Christena), Manley, Emma, Albert, Addie, Milton and Mrs. J. A. Buck.

Sully County with the exception of the time he served with the Armed Forces in World War I; Hildred (Mrs. Theodore Warne) who received her education in Sully and Hughes counties and made her home in Sully County until 1941, when she and her family moved to Jackson Hole, Wyoming, where they lived for a short time, later moving to Denver, Colorado, where they now reside. Irene (Mrs. Everett Chenoweth), who has spent her entire life, with the exception of four years spent in Hughes County attending high school, and at present resides in Onida.

Milton married Hattie Dorrel and to this union ten children were born; Glen, who resides in Duluth, Minnesota, Ralph, Francis, George, Elmer, Marie, Gladys (Mrs. Clayton Wilcox) and Minnie (Mrs. Harold Currier) have spent their entire lives in Sully County. Hazel (Mrs. Wm. Pendergast) now resides in Pinehurst, Idaho, Alberta (Mrs. Clinton Spicer) makes her home in Pierre.

Emma married J. A. Buck and to this union six children were born; Gertrude (Mrs. Frank Weischedel) now deceased; Bessie (Mrs. Walter Pease) of Quinter,

Kansas; Elmer, Clifford, and John, (deceased, and Christena (Mrs. Harry Rupalvis) of Vallejo, California.

Albert married Anna Briscoe and they have one son, Lloyd, who taught school in Alaska for several years until his accidental death in a plane crash while hunting.

Emmanuel married Lauretta Johnson and to this union one daughter, Myrtle, was born, now of San Francisco, California.

Susan Faye, passed away in infancy.



The J. A. Buck Family. Hartford Township.



Four Generations of Ripley. Front row, left to right — Mrs. Milton Ripley (Hattie), her great grandson Mickey, and her son, Ralph, Sr. Back row — grandsons Ralph, Jr., Delbert and Lawrence, and great grandsons, Jimmy and Larry.

Addie married William Wilcox and to this union five children were born; Mary (Mrs. Wm. Wagner), Esther, now deceased, Hugh in Montana, Robert in California, and James in Nevada.

The following ten grandchildren of George and Christena Ripley are still residents of Sully County: George Gerlach and Gladys Wilcox of Agar, South Dako-

ta; Irene Chenoweth, Walter, Ralph, Francis, George, Elmer, Marie Ripley, and Minnie Currier, all of Onida.



The Gerlach Family

John Gerlach and his father-in-law, George Ripley, came to South Dakota in the fall of 1882, from the state of Min-



Golden Wedding Anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. George Ripley, their children and families, about 1904.



Four Generation Family. Front row — Mr. and Mrs. George Ripley. Back row, left to right — Mr. and Mrs. John Gerlach (Lucy Ripley), and their son, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Gerlach and daughter Helen.

nesota. They traveled as far as Highmore by train, walked from there to the town-site of Onida and then walked another 17 miles northwest where they filed pre-emptions in what is now Hartford Township. The two men returned to Minnesota that same year and the following spring, Mr. Ripley and two of his sons, William and Milton, returned. They built claim shacks on the Northwest of 14 and the Northwest of eight and a 1½ story house. After finishing their building, they drove back to their homes in a wagon and the following April the Ripley family and Mr. and Mrs. Gerlach and two sons, Will and Joe, and all their belongings, came by train as far as Blunt. Then traveled by horse and wagon to their homes in Hartford Township.

In the fall of 1889, the Gerlach family moved to Troy Township and filed on a pre-emption and tree claim on the Southwest of 22. All the buildings from their homestead in Hartford were moved into Troy. The 16x24 foot house and all its contents were loaded on four wagons, chained together and pulled by 16 horses and moved about six miles without any trouble. In the process of moving, Mrs. Gerlach and the children remained in the

house and enjoyed their six-mile journey. Dan Adams, a house mover in the early days, performed this miraculous operation. The Gerlach homestead in Hartford Township was sold to Ed Dexheimer about two years later.

Mr. Gerlach accumulated cattle and horses and built several new buildings on his homestead in Troy besides a large barn that held 30 head of work horses and staunches for 24 milk cows.

Will Gerlach first attended the North Hartford School in 1887. His first teacher was Mrs. J. F. Cole. Then when the family moved into Troy, he went to the Troy School with Miss Adele Nelson as his teacher. This schoolhouse was moved so many times that it was known as the "schoolhouse on wheels." The other eight little Gerlachs also received their education in this school, having numerous teachers through the years.



The Lomheim Family

James C. Lomheim and his brother, Knute, came to Sully County in an emigrant car in 1885. They left Norway in 1883 for America, stopping at an uncle's in Lodi, Wisconsin, and working for him

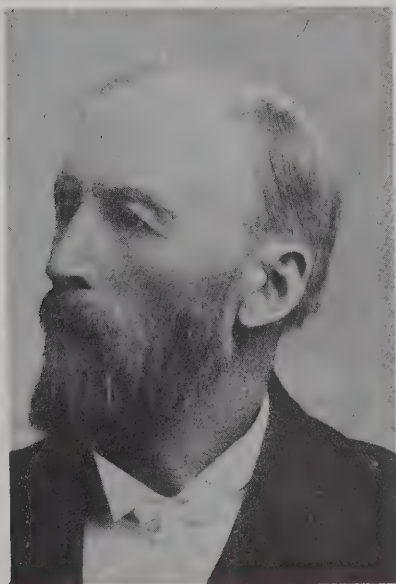
raising blooded horses for two years in order to get \$50.00 to make the trip on to Dakota Territory. They brought one horse and an ox with them which was all the power they had to pull the plow.

Knute filed on the Southwest of 12 in Hartford Township, now farmed by Kenneth Marsh, proved up on his land and after three years moved to Minot, North Dakota. He married and later moved to Alberta, Canada, where they raised a family of 12 children. Knute died in 1932.

James C. Lomheim filed on the Northwest of 22 in Hartford Township as a homestead, and on the Southwest of 16, as a tree claim. He built a sod shanty and some other buildings. He and Knute worked together at their small farming operations, buying more oxen and later on more horses.

Christopher Olsen Lomheim, father of James and Knute, arrived from Norway in 1886, a year after his sons came to Sully County, bringing four of his younger children, Louis, Gertrude, Anna and Kristena. The family had lived on a farm named "Lomheim" in Norway and all relatives coming to America kept that name. Two sons of Christopher O. remained in Norway. Christopher Lomheim lived on the home farm of "Lomheim" and Ole Alme, who moved to the farm "Alme", hence took that name.

Christopher O. Lomheim filed on the



Christopher Olsen Lomheim.
First Generation of Lomheims to settle in Hartford Township.

Southwest of 21 in Hartford Township, one-half mile from his son James. He lived alone here, the four children having settled in Pierre, where Louis was a barber for a number of years. The sisters married and later moved to the state of Washington, as did Louis and family. Mr. Lomheim went to live for a time with his daughter, Anna Smith, in Lead, South Dakota, and returned to Norway in 1906, where he died in 1908, at the age of 78.



Mr. and Mrs. James C. Lomheim, 1932.
Pioneers of Hartford Township.

James C. Lomheim and Louise Asmussen were married on Thanksgiving Day in 1891. There were 12 children born to them. Chas. Manford was born in the sod shanty. The next year a wood shack was bought and moved to the home site. Gertrude and Albert were born in this shack. At this time, the Brooking Schoolhouse was moved from the Northeast of 23 to the Northeast of 27. Later it was called the Walsh School. The following year, James moved his family and buildings to the Northeast of 26, where they now stand. Several additions were added as the family became larger, and he did most of the carpenter work himself.

Anna, Margaret, Mary, Clarence, Alice (died at age three years), Marvin (died at three months), the twins (born prematurely) and Henry Christopher were all born on this place. All of the children in the Lomheim family attended the same school that their mother attended when she was a young girl. Her parents, the Mathias Asmussens, lived in Garner Township on Section Six at that time. There were six Lomheim children attending the Walsh School at a time for several years. Gertrude Lomheim taught her first term of school in the Walsh School in 1912-13.

There were six pupils, all Lomheims, but one, who was Leonard Walsh.

James became the largest land owner in Hartford Township and with the help of his children farmed a lot of this land, also raising many cattle, horses and hogs. Mrs. Lomheim was an excellent cook and buttermaker, shipping 60 pound tubs every week to Wayne & Low at Chicago, besides delivering butter and eggs to her regular customers and the stores in Onida for many years. The henhouse was a sod house and her hens laid eggs the year round. She was selling eggs when her neighbors were buying them. Many cows were milked by hand and there were no facilities for cooling the milk, cream and butter in those days. An outside cave and shallow well way down in the ravine served the purpose, entailing a lot of hard and tedious work. Water for household use was carried up this long hill, and soft water was hauled on a stoneboat with a barrel from the pond for washing and hogs. With all her sewing, cleaning, baking and caring for her large family, Mrs. Lomheim found time to bake for the bachelors in the neighborhood. Cow chips were gathered by Louise and the children to use as firewood, sometimes there were corncobs, and James, with the help of his sons, would make a trip now and then to the Missouri River to bring back logs that were made into stove wood, sawing them in the right lengths for the kitchen range, which was the only means of heating the house, until the later years. Somehow the family never froze, although the walls in the bedrooms sparkled with diamonds during the winter months. They had a straw burner that fit over the two front lids on the range, and even coarse hay was used in it for heating purposes.

Having no church in the community, Union Sunday School was held in the schoolhouse, and at times traveling ministers would hold services there. Farm families seemed to appreciate and enjoy the benefits of regular attendance at Sunday School in those days. Each small community furnished its own entertainment, have a Literary Society, home talent plays, programs, music and singing. For the most part the pioneers were a contented and happy people with visions for the future and ambitions to carry them through, often beyond their fondest hopes and expectations.

The Lomheim Children

Chas. M. Lomheim and Sopha M. Schreiber were married in September, 1921. They lived on a farm three miles north of Agar for a number of years where their four children were born; Carol Louise, who married David Zilverberg. They live on their ranch in Hyde County and have four children, Kaye Lynn, Timothy David, Lucinda Louise and Julia Faye. Kathleen Marie married Ward Doren and live near Madison, South Dakota. Manford Edwin and Sylvia Wittler were married and have a daughter, Monica Marie, living on the Albert O. Lomheim farm. Marcel Chas. married Mary Jean Thompson. They have a son, Garry Dean, and two daughters, Debra Marie and Kathy Marlene. They live on the old home place of J. C. Lomheim, now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Chas. M. Lomheim. Marcel operates the ranch, raising cattle and farming the land. Chas. M. remained at his parental home the longest of the children. During a severe winter with deep snow on the prairie and feed scarce, Chas. would set out on his skis and travel miles in order to locate the horses which were turned loose to shift for themselves. He and Gertrude graduated from the eighth grade together the year that Jesse T. Hayes taught the Walsh School, and T. L. Mitchell was county superintendent. Sopha taught in the Sully County schools a number of years before her marriage. Mr. and Mrs. Lomheim are remodeling their house in Onida preparing to move into it this fall.

Gertrude married Wilber Snell in July, 1914, and lived at Wolsey, South Dakota, where he was assistant cashier of the Bank of Wolsey. They had a son, Kenneth Wesley, who died in infancy. They moved to Tulare in 1918, to accept positions in the Citizens State Bank, Wilber as cashier and Gertrude as assistant cashier. After two years Wilber became ill and resigned. Gertrude was appointed postmaster of Tulare, a position she held for over 13 years. Wilber was an invalid for over nine years, passing away in January, 1929. She came to live in Onida in 1944, where she farmed her land in Hartford and Garner townships. She owns the home she built in 1946, spending her time at many hobbies. She is serving her sixth year as City Councilman, having had the

honor of being the only woman councilman in the state.

Albert O. Lomheim and his wife, Hazel, own the land which includes the original homestead of his father, J. C. Lomheim. Albert and Hazel now live in Onida but still farm a good share of the land. They have five children. Their oldest daughter, Doris Clark and her husband Jack and family live in Hughes County. James, the oldest son, and his wife Darleen are doing missionary work in South America. Albert, Jr. and his wife Shirley and family own and operate a farm in Richvalley Township. Lewis and his wife Ardis and children live in Rhode Island where Lewis is in the Navy Air Corp. Joan, the youngest daughter, is a high school student at the Prairie Bible Institute in Three Hills, Canada.

Anna married Melvin J. Todd in 1916, and now live in McMinnville, Oregon.

Margaret married George R. Harvey, and they have two sons, Kenneth and Walter. The Harveys live in San Diego, California.

Mary married John W. Harvey in 1927. They have two sons and two daughters, Richard, Robert, Mary Ellen and Sara Jane. The Harveys own and operate an orchard at Selah, Washington, in the Yakima Valley apple country.

Clarence took up the carpenter trade at an early age and did some farming in



Sons of Mr. and Mrs. James C. Lomheim.
Left to right—Henry, Clarence, Charles and Albert. Reunion in 1946.

the thirties. On January 18, 1951, he married Texas Rucker-Lambert of Sweetwater, Texas. They own the home they built in Onida.

The Henry C. Lomheim family live in the home formerly owned by Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Lomheim. Hank has remodeled the house and built on several rooms. There are seven children; Marcella, Alice (Mrs. Robert Porter), Charlotte (Mrs. Buell Buol), Roger, Lenn, Nadine and Harlow.

Hank was a trucker for many years, also custom farmed, which he still does. He sold the trucking business a few years ago.

Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Lomheim moved from the farm to Onida in 1927. There are 27 grandchildren and 44 great grandchildren in the family. Mrs. Lomheim passed away in May, 1936, and Mr. Lomheim, in November, 1941. Both are buried in the Onida cemetery.

Kristene Lomheim-Roddle of Portland, Oregon, is the only one left to represent this generation of the Lomheim family. She is a sister of J. C. Lomheim and is 81.



The Spitz Homestead

The Eric Spitz family, who originally came from Sweden, arrived in Sully County in 1885. He filed on a homestead on the Northwest of 28 in Hartford Township. Later he moved the family to the Southwest of 26, where he built a dam and a well for water supply. Here Mr. Spitz built a large sod house and most of the six children were born in this sod house. There were Noah, David, Lily (Mrs. Roman J. Spaid), Harvey, Tollie (Mrs. Knute Lage) and Ernest. The mother died while

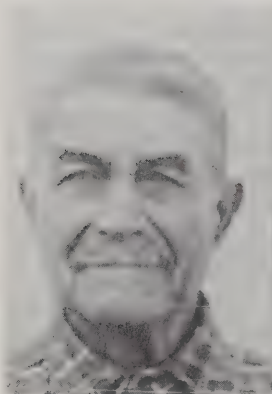


Daughters of Mr. and Mrs. James C. Lomheim. Back row, left to right—Mary (Mrs. John W. Harvey) and Gertrude (Mrs. Wilber Snell). Front row—Margaret (Mrs. George R. Harvey) and Anna (Mrs. M. J. Todd). Reunion in 1945.

the children were quite young and Mr. Spitz raised the family and gave them a common school education. David died while he was serving in the Spanish-American War, and Mrs. Spaid passed away a number of years later. Mrs. Spaid was the mother of five sons, Ralph, Louis, Lester, Arthur and Barney, and a daughter, Pearl.

About 1900, Mr. Spitz bought a Fort Sully building, dismantled it and hauled the lumber by team and wagon to the home site, where he built a new home with his own hands. Besides being a good carpenter, he was also a stone-mason, doing very good work at laying foundations.

Harvey Spitz went across the river to file on land near the Creighton post-office where he lived until his death several years ago. Tollie was a school teacher in Sully County for many years and later married Knute Lage. They moved to San Pedro, California. Knute passed away some years ago and Tollie has maintained the home there. Their daughter, Frances, is married. Noah Spitz who spent many years in Saskatchewan, Canada, now makes his home with his sister, Tollie Lage. Ernest has a family of seven children and lives at Kooskia, Idaho.



Noah Spitz, 1951.
Son of Eric Spitz,
Pioneer of Hartford
Township.



Tollie Spitz Lage.
School Teacher in
Sully County for
many years.

William and Fritz Wallmo, nephews of Eric Spitz, came from Sweden for a visit and liked the prairie well enough to settle in Hartford Township and build a home on Section 10, with the help of Mr. Spitz. The brothers farmed this land for several years, then sold it to Chas. E. Byrum of Garner Township, and then moved to Saskatchewan, Canada. Chas. E. Byrum sold this land to Dan Weischedel af-

ter World War I, and some time later sold it to James C. Lomheim and it is now owned by Albert O. Lomheim. William Wallmo has since passed away and Fritz still lives on their place in Canada.

Eric Spitz passed away in 1917. The house he built still stands, although it is near ruin, having been empty for many years. The rest of the buildings have fallen down, one at a time. Louis Spaid, grandson of Eric Spitz, looks after the renting of the land.

Mr. Spitz was a kind and generous man, who was always ready to help a neighbor in time of need. One could expect to see him come walking with his cane, storm or not, when he knew he could be of help. At one time he knew that Jim Lomheim was going to Gettysburg by team and bob sled to market wheat, making it necessary that he remain overnight, due to the distance. During the night a heavy snow fell, and the wind whipped it into big drifts, and the storm lasted about three days. On the second day, Mr. Spitz walked through the storm taking several hours to reach the farm, to see how Mrs. Lomheim was getting along with the small children, and the livestock chores. He did what he could and gave her strict orders to stay within the house, regardless of what happened to the stock. He milked the cows and fed them a generous amount of hay, then walked back home.



The seven remaining families include the Theron McKenney family, who own and live on the Robert Porter homestead. Theron is the son of Ira McKenney, early settler of Blaine Township. His wife, Edith, is the daughter of Alex Brehe, early settler in Farmington Township. Edith and Theron have three children — Marlin and his wife Nancy, and two children are living in Onida; Marlin is farming with his father; Maxine, Mrs. Roger Rose, and daughter are presently at home. Roger is in the army at Camp Hood, Texas. Maxine had the misfortune of being badly burned a few months prior to this writing and is now convalescing at home. Monita is attending college at Huron, South Dakota. Theron and Edith have recently built a new farm home.

Kenneth Marsh, his wife Eileen, daughter Carol, and son Douglas own and live on the McFarland homestead. Ken-

neth is the grandson of Dan McGuire, early settler in Pearl Township.

Gerald Weischedel, his wife Doris, and children Linda, Terry and Julie live on the Lawrence Gasperich farm.

Manford Lomheim, wife Sylvia and daughter Monica live on the Albert O. Lomheim farm. Manford is a nephew of Albert and a grandson of J. C. Lomheim.

Donald Martin and his wife, Fern, have built up a farm on the Northeast of 30. They have two grown sons, who are married. D. J. lives in Pierre, and Richard lives in Agar. Fern is the daughter of Cy Lyons, early settler in Milford Township.

Albin Olson, his wife, Irene and daughter Patty, own and live on the Frank Collins homestead.

Harold Currier, his wife Minnie, and four of their five children, Duane, Gary, Cecil and Sandra own and live on the Nathan Porter homestead. The Currier's oldest daughter, Janice, is now Mrs. Floyd Towns and resides with her husband on a ranch west of the river in Haakon County. Minnie is the granddaughter of George Ripley, an early homesteader in Hartford Township. Harold's parents homesteaded in Perkins County where Harold was born in a sod house. His parents later moved to Farmington Township.

Elmer LaFave, his wife Louise, their daughter LaVon, and their son Veryl and his wife Peggy and small son live on the old Dexheimer homestead now owned by Richard Bramblette. LaVon is attending Huron College.

Marcel Lomheim, wife Mary Jean, and three children, Gary, Debra and Kathy live on the farm of his father, Chas. Lomheim. Marcel is a grandson of J. C. Lomheim. The farm site was built up and the home for many years of J. C. Lomheim.



IOWA TOWNSHIP

The first sod house built in Iowa Township was in the fall of 1882, by a Mr. Strand, who returned to his home state after filing a claim and finishing his house and barn. In the early spring of the following year, he again traversed the open prairie to his sod shanty where he began a new and different life in Dakota.

Another pioneer to settle in what is

now Iowa Township in 1883, was A. C. Goddard and his family, who homesteaded and lived there until 1902, when they disposed of their interests in Sully County and moved to Eugene, Oregon, and after three years, returned to Pierre and built a home. They lived there until Mr. Goddard's death in 1921.



Mr. and Mrs. M. E. Trumble.
Pioneers of Iowa Township.

Others to file on homesteads in 1883, were Frank Goddard, L. W. Trumble, Dr. J. M. Hackett, G. L. McGinnis, Robert Clark, J. T. Nelson, Philip Murphy, Charles Ziegler and many more. O. D. Warne arrived in January of 1884, and M. E. Trumble came in the spring of the following year.

The first birth in Iowa Township was that of Mary Goddard, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Goddard, on June 2, 1883. Possibly she was the first white child born in Sully County. She became the wife of W. E. Calhoun, of Pierre.

The first marriage in the township was that of L. W. Trumble and Elizabeth Jones in June, 1884.

The first schoolhouse was built in the spring of 1884, and was taught by Miss Staples, daughter of the first county superintendent of schools. C. S. Mateer was the first man teacher.

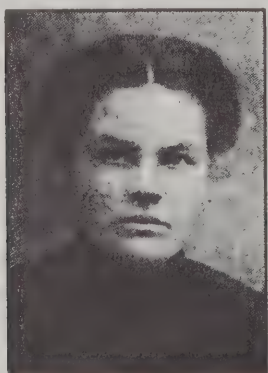
Iowa Township was granted a Civil organization in April, 1886, by the County Board.



Pictured, left to right — Delta Trumble Fielder, of Pierre; Marion Trumble (Mrs. George), Nora Trumble Pritchard, of Selah, Washington, and Earl Hardwick, standing on the tractor. Taken in 1919, at the M. E. Trumble ranch where Albert Trumble now lives.

The first artesian well was drilled on the Wadleigh ranch in 1900, and was the first well of its kind in Sully County from which natural gas was used for heating and lighting purposes.

Iowa Township experienced two violent windstorms; one in June, 1924, and the other in June, 1935, which completely wrecked the S. C. Warne farm home and the barn and other buildings on the O. D. Warne farm.



Mary Goddard. First Child Born in Iowa Township

LAKE TOWNSHIP

Lake Township has always been a stockman's paradise. The valley of Medicine Creek which meanders diagonally across the township from northeast to southwest, abounds in springs and shallow wells providing plenty of water. The rolling hills are not suitable for farming, but they are ideal for pasture. Of late years a few deer have often been seen browsing in a deep ravine or skimming over the prairie like low flying birds. Wells on the level land above the valley are from 80 to 125 feet in depth and artesian wells flow about 50 gallons per minute and are long lasting.

The name of the township is derived from a small lake known as Farmers Lake because it was a part of the George Farmer homestead. In early years it was a favorite watering place for stock when windmills and pumps failed. For many years it supplied the ice which kept ice-boxes performing. The ice harvest was a community affair accomplished with horse drawn bobsleds, hand sawed ice and general discomforts due to cold weather and hard work. Occasionally someone accidentally fell into the open water and came

out "frozen stiff," but good fellowship prevailed and all was forgotten when the crew gathered around the dinner table. Sometimes the women gathered too and exchanged patterns, recipes and gossip.

The improvement of roads has been one of the major projects during the past 20 years. The county program called for a graded and graveled road to every farm house in the county and in most cases the dreams have become a reality. Much of the gravel has been procured from the old pit which was opened up by the Chicago & Northwestern Railway Company in 1907. For several years when the railroad operated the pit, it was a site of teeming activity with often times 200 men employed. Many were immigrants from southern Europe and spoke no English. After the railroad abandoned the pit, tree seeds drifting in found lodging in the damp sand and a natural woods developed.

Many of the residents of Lake Township are of German extraction. Some are second and third generation descendants of the early pioneers, and most own their own farms, so the population is fairly stable.

Over a period of years, several places have been abandoned. In some cases the

buildings have been moved away and in others the houses are vacant. One such is the C. J. Brown farm. The death of Mr. Brown in 1929 made it necessary for Mrs. Brown to leave the farm, and after renting for several years, she sold the land and building to Roy Beckett. Mrs. Brown lived in Pierre near her son until her death in 1957. William Leesman bought the house and moved it to his farm a few years after he returned from his services in the Army. Williams' wife is the former Lorraine Knodel of Hyde County.

The Klingbeil boys, Emil and Edgar, reside on the family homestead of their father, Julius Klingbeil. Neither are married. Emil served almost four years in the Armed Forces in World War II. Their father died in 1925, and their mother in 1932.

Mr. and Mrs. Harlan Hall, the former Wanda Mauree Day, live on the D. J. Post place which was originally the Klatt homestead. Mr. Post retired in 1946, and after living in Blunt a few years located on a farm near Huron. Both Mr. and Mrs. Post are deceased. Arnold Asmussen and Eddie Hofer lived there from 1947 to December, 1951, when Arnold was killed in a plane accident near Waterville, Washington. He was survived by his widow, the former



Mr. and Mrs. O. E. McArthur and daughter Adeline. In front of their home in Lake Township, 1910.



C. M. Leesman Family, Lake Township, 1918. Standing, left to right—Lenora (Mrs. Pete Griffin), Clarence, Herb and Mabel. Seated—Mr. Leesman, daughter Dena and Mrs. Leesman.

Pearl Hofer, and two small sons. The Halls have enlarged the house and added other buildings. "Pike" as he is known to his friends, specializes in purebred Hampshire hogs.

Garrett and Adeline Reynolds live on the home place built by her father, Oscar E. McArthur, when he moved into the township in 1909. He was a pioneer in Buffalo Township of the '83 vintage and saw many changes in the development of

the county. Mr. McArthur died in 1945, and his wife in 1936. Arthur Reynolds and his wife, the former Beona Hohrman, of Hayes, live on the farm and share in its management.

Harold and Margaret Pope occupy the farmstead formerly owned by her uncle, Felix Schmitgen, who died in 1954. Her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Schmitgen live on the old O'Donnell place. The



Ira L. Wells Family, Lake Township, 1908. Left to right—Son Lawrence, Ira L., daughter Bernice, Mrs. Wells holding Lloyd on her lap, and Lewis.



Social Gathering at the Leesman Home, 1916. Left to right — Mr. Leesman, Lenora Leesman, Mrs. Huffman, Mrs. Leesman, Pat Griffin, Herb Leesman, Dena Leesman, Mrs. J. I. Rein and Mr. Rein.

Schmitgens were immigrants from Luxembourg.

To the really oldtimers, the farm occupied by Nick Meyer is the old Charles Hess place. Here Phillip Hess of the Watchman force, was born and spent his early boyhood. His father, Charles Hess, was one of the first to file on land in Lake Township in 1883. Until very recently, Charles, Jr. and Phillip retained ownership of their father's homestead which was located in another part of the township. To get back to the Meyer story, Nick's grandfather, John Schmitgen, acquired the land about 1909 or 1910. In time it passed into the hands of Mrs. Henry Meyer, Nick's mother, and the Meyer family lived there for many years. Nick served in the Armed Forces during World War II and when he returned, married Charlotte Beckett. His parents moved to Harrold where they now reside.

Roy Beckett is a grandson of B. B. Wells and a son of Mr. and Mrs. George Beckett, who together with Mr. and Mrs. Ira Wells came to Sully County in 1902, settling on the Tom Garrett place. Roy has been active in many community affairs, and is at present, County Commissioner from this district. Mrs. Beckett is the former Ann Salathe. One son, Delmar, is currently serving in the Army and is stationed at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

The Ira Wells family lived in Lake Township for many years before moving to California in the early thirties. Their son, Lewis, remained on the farm for several years and some reading this may recall the dances held in the hay mow of their barn. In 1947, they too moved to California. Mrs. Ira Wells passed away in 1958.

The old Roy Latta place has been occupied by many families down through the years, but is now owned by a Mr. Terrell from Texas, who commutes back and forth to farm the land and also the land once owned by Carl Knutson. The buildings on the latter place have been moved away.

Mr. and Mrs. August Lappe and their son, Ambrose, live on the Thoman place, and another son, Bertie, lives on the place originally built by a Mr. Wiebelhaus who left here during the thirties. Bertie is a flying farmer who has logged many hours in the air, and is known as a competent and careful pilot. His brother, Alvin, lives on the place built up by their father when he moved into the township from Hughes County many years ago.

George Salathe, whose wife is a daughter of George Beckett, has improved a place of his own, starting from scratch so to speak. George is a veteran of World

War I. Son Gerald lives on the farm also and helps his father.

C. M. Leesman and his family moved here from Illinois in 1906. His wife was the former Carrie Eckert, daughter of Charles Eckert, pioneer of Fairview Township. The Leesmans were renowned for their hospitality and their home was the scene of many happy social occasions. A daughter, Mabel, died in 1925, and Mrs. Leesman passed away in 1947. Sons, Clarence and Herb and grandson Willie all have modern homes in the same community. Mrs. Herb Leesman died in 1947. C. M. lives in a trailer near his son Clarence and the old home is occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Ted Schmitgen. Mrs. Schmitgen is the former Marie Leesman. Ted is a veteran of World War II and a son of the late Henry Schmitgen of Buffalo Township.

Wallace Allen lives on the Herb Eckert place. He came from Athens, Texas, in the late 40's, is a bachelor and farms in Lincoln Township where he owns land. He also flies a light plane.

Herb Eckert, brother of Gus and Will Eckert, was found dead alone in his house in 1939. The Eckerts were known for their fine cattle for many years. Gus moved to Michigan many years ago.

Edward Roche moved to the J. I. Rein place in 1946. Mr. and Mrs. Roche have had an interesting career collecting wild animals and training them for exhibition purposes before locating here and disposing of all the animals. Their winter quarters were in Texas. Mr. Roche is a nephew of John and Ed Roche who lived here and in Blunt long ago.

Mr. and Mrs. J. I. Rein, the former Emma Eckert, were true pioneers, devel-

oping their ranch from a homestead to a well improved ranch.

After disposing of his farm, Mr. Rein went to New York to be with his nephews. He died shortly after he arrived there in October of 1946. Mrs. Rein died in 1925.

Fred Mueller and his wife, the former Pauline Klingbeil, live on the place vacated by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Gotthold Mueller, when they sold out and moved to Kansas in 1937. Both of the latter have since passed on. This is the home built by Tom Mercer before the turn of the century. Mrs. Mercer will be remembered as a pioneer teacher.

Mr. and Mrs. Luke Bond and his mother, Mrs. Dos Bond, are another Texan family who moved here in December of 1950. They live on the Casper Geraths place and farm extensively. The Geraths moved to California in the "dirty thirties." Mrs. Geraths is dead, but Mr. Geraths is quite well and lives in Oregon near his sons, Paul and Raymond.

Many of the young people who spent their youth here have gone out into the world to make careers and honor for themselves.



LEWELLYN PARK TOWNSHIP

Some of the early pioneers homesteading in Lewellyn Park Township were George Millett, Robert Snyder, David Staples, S. D. Blair, Chris Johnson, Charles Sommers, Alfred Benton, Charles Hurlburt and George Mosely. Dr. O. H. Mann, also an early settler, had the large hospital building at Fort Sully moved to his ranch in February, 1898, which was remodeled and made into a home and sanitorium.



J. I. Rein Homestead, Lake Township, 1900.



Lewellyn Park School, 1912. Mrs. McMacken, teacher.

Two of the early teachers in the township were John McCray and Mrs. Yates. Mrs. McMacken was the teacher in Lewellyn Park School in 1912.



The Mateer Family

Walter H. Mateer was born on December 16, 1861, at Reed's Landing, Minnesota, and in 1883, with his father, Thomas, and two brothers, Charles and Stewart, moved to Lewellyn Park Township where they homesteaded. The farm was known as the Lewellyn Park Farm and was managed as a joint venture.

On April 12, 1891, Walter Mateer was united in marriage to Clare V. Brownlee, whose father for some time had and operated a flour mill at Okobojo. The Brownlee family originally came to Sully County from Centralia, Illinois. It is interesting to note that the flour produced by this mill was called "Brownlee's Peacemaker."

Several years later, Thomas Mateer, the father of the three boys, passed away, and soon thereafter, Charles Mateer moved to Huron, South Dakota, and Stewart Mateer went to Meridan, Idaho, at which time Walter took over the entire operation of the farm where he and his bride had made their home since their marriage.

To Walter and Clare Mateer, ten children were born, nine of whom grew up to manhood and womanhood: Hazel (Deceased), Edwina, Henrietta, Grace, Kenneth (Deceased), Mildred (Deceased), Lesbia, Albert, Curtis, and Donald.

Walter Mateer was mainly a livestock producer, raising cattle, hogs and sheep, but devoting most of his time to the raising of sheep; his farming activities being mostly for feed crops.

Like all homesteaders in those days, they had their "ups and downs." In some years, feed crops grew abundantly, prices for livestock were high and life was made considerably easier and more comfortable. In other years, hail and drouth struck the growing feed crops and pastures were poor, or the price of livestock dropped severely. They did not have the opportunity to obtain financial assistance from the various sources as do the farmers and livestock producers of today, and times were very hard for them.

Walter took a very active part in the building of his community, acting as a member on both the School Board and the Township Board.

In the fall of 1918, he moved his family to Pierre so the younger children could obtain a high school education. Until he died on November 23, 1921, he managed the farm from his home in Pierre.

After his death, and until 1925, when she leased the farm, his widow, Clare, operated it with the help of her three sons who were then attending high school.

In 1925, Clare married William Floyd, a Sully County pioneer, and they moved to Long Beach, California, to make their home. Mr. Floyd passed away in May, 1956, and in June, 1958, Clare Mateer Floyd passed away at the age of 90.

The Groseclose Family

Among the early settlers of Sully County was the James R. Groseclose family who homesteaded in Lewellyn Park Township.

James R. Groseclose and Mary Victoria Cummings were married at Winter-set, Iowa, January 24, 1867. Four children, William, Clermont and twin daughters, Irene and Josephine, were born before the family moved to Dakota Territory. On March 1, 1884, they arrived in Pierre, Dakota Territory.

James R. filed on a claim in Lewellyn Park Township on the Okobojo Creek below where the town of Okobojo grew and has since almost vanished. At that time the creek was a beautiful stream wooded with box elders, elm and wild



Mr. and Mrs. James R. Groseclose. Pioneers of Lewellyn Park Township.

fruit trees. There was always an abundance of water, which oftentimes was a scarcity on the prairie homesteads. The Groseclose house was a story and half frame structure and their first chicken house and barn were of sod. The purchase of adjacent land made the homestead 400 acres of range and farm land. James served on the schoolboard many years and served several terms as County Assessor and County Commissioner.

On November 22, 1884, another son, Henry, was born and on April 4, 1892, a daughter, Mae, completed the family of six, three boys and three girls. They all grew up on the old homestead, married local young people of early pioneers and settled in various parts of the county and



Mrs. James R. Groseclose and three daughters. Standing, left to right — Josephine and Irene (twins). Seated — Mrs. Groseclose and Mae.

now have all have passed on except Mae, (Mrs. Bob Harry), of Roundup, Montana, and Henry, who chose to remain in Lewellyn Park Township and make his home.

William Groseclose married Annie Snyder on March 11, 1894, and to this union two sons were born, Edward and Bryan. In 1902, they left Sully County to make their home in Helena, Montana, where he spent most of the remainder of his life until his death in 1945.

Irene Groseclose was married to Lilburn Crumbaker, December 9, 1894, living in and around Okobojo where two of their four children were born. Alice (Mrs. Ward Green) now of Pierre and Esther (Mrs. Gerald Sullivan) deceased. In 1902, they moved to Colee City, Washington, and while living in that state two sons, Howard, now of Twin Falls, Idaho, and



Irene (Groseclose) Crumbaker, left, and Kathryn (Glessner) Eakin. Celebrating the birthday anniversary of Mrs. Eakin, 80 years old, December 22, 1953.

Everill, of Billings, Montana, were born. They later moved to Helena, Montana, where they lived until their children were grown. Mr. and Mrs. Crumbaker moved back to Pierre in the thirties to make their home with their daughter, Mrs. Ward Green, where they lived until their passing. Irene in 1955, and Lilburn in 1938.

Josephine Groseclose was married to Frank Ripley, January 20, 1895, making their home continuously in Okobojo and Lewellyn Park Township, where their three children were born. Walter, now of Onida, Hildred (Mrs. Ted Warne), Englewood, Colorado, and Irene (Mrs. Everett Chenoweth), Onida. Josephine passed away May 11, 1908, and Grandma Groseclose (Mrs. J. R.) came to make her home with the family and raised the three children until they were grown and through school. Frank freighted for the Okobojo Store and community and carried mail from Pierre to Laurel for many years besides operating his farm. He was also county road maintainer for several years.

In 1908, Henry filed on the Southwest of 8-113-80, which is still the family home. On June 19, 1910, he was married to Florence Acheson, who came here in 1903, from Iowa, to visit her sister, Mrs. H. P. Knox in Little Bend, but stayed on



Mr. and Mrs. Frank Ripley (Josephine Groseclose) and son Walter.

to teach in the little log schoolhouse in Little Bend and later in other schools of Sully County. Five sons and one daughter grew up on this homestead, rode four miles horse back to school and eventually settled in various places. During World War II, four of the boys were in service; Chester in the Navy in the Pacific, Roger (Jack) also in the Pacific as a bomber pilot, William, flying a Mustang Fighter plane in Europe, and Ward driving a tank, also in Europe. All returned safely, except Bill, who was shot down over Germany. He had spent eight months in a German Prison Camp during the last year of the War.

Clermont (Monte) Groseclose was married to Mary Harry, August 14, 1910, and to this union seven children were born. They made their home continuously in and around Okobojo, until 1945, when they moved to Bakersfield, California, then to Hayward, California, where Monte passed away in April, 1957. All of the children live in California, except Richard and Clifford who still reside in Onida.

On April 28, 1915, Mae Groseclose was married to Stephen (Bob) Harry. For many years Mae was a Sully and Hughes County school teacher. They had three daughters; Janis (Mrs. Milton Jepson), now of San Jose, California; Lovena, (Mrs. Arnold Tholkes), Belgrade, Montana, and Cleo, (Mrs. Lawrence Tholkes), Williston, North Dakota. The Harry family lost their home and all their personal belongings in a fire, but later built a new home in Okobojo Township where they made their home for many years. They now reside at Roundup, Montana.

James has chosen to stay on the home place with his parents.

Ward has a place of his own in Grandview Township where he and his wife (the former Mary LaPlant) (Sid) have been working hard building up a comfortable ranch home.

The one daughter, Edythe Overholt, lives in Pierre, and four of the ten grandchildren are hers. They are Tom, Patty, Pan and Donna.

Chester lives in Ipswich, South Dakota. His wife is the former Elva Everett of Pierre. Their children are Chester, Jr. and Faye, who is married to Jack Beringer. Their little daughter, Jackie, is the first great grandchild.

William is an engineer presently employed on the Flaming Gorge Dam in Utah. His wife was Dorothy Tyson, of Brookings, and their children are Sheryl, Terry and Sandra.

Roger (better known as Jack) is Major R. J. Groseclose, presently stationed at Wright-Patterson Air Force base at Dayton, Ohio. His wife was Ruth Rucker of North Hollywood, California. They have one son, Geoffrey.

In 1943, a cyclone visited Lewellyn Park and the Groseclose ranch was directly in its path. All the buildings except the house were wrecked, but no one was hurt. This necessitated much rebuilding.

Blizzards, grasshoppers, drouth and Indian trouble, too close for comfort, interspersed with good years all proved the true pioneer spirit to endure. The ranch remained in the family until 1938. Many decedants still reside in Sully County and many of the family that have passed on are laid to rest in the Okobojo Cemetery.



LINCOLN TOWNSHIP

Lincoln Township was so named because of the fact that its early settlers came from Lincoln, Illinois, and other towns surrounding that area.

Among the early settlers of Lincoln Township in the latter part of 1882 and in

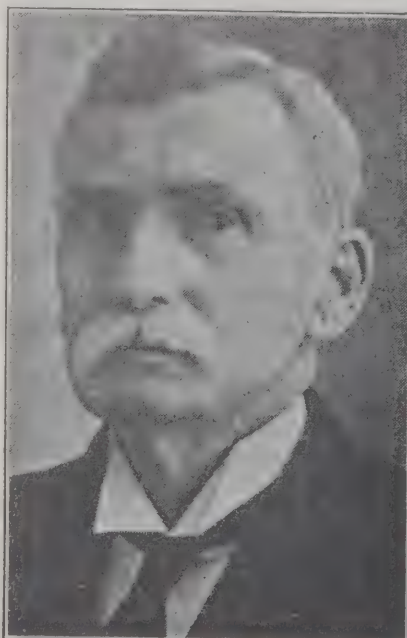
1883, were William Toomey, John Jane, L. M. Starkey, the Coddingtons, Sam Jarvis, the Homer Russells, the Marsh's, James and Lyman Richardson, Loren Carr and many others. After investigating the land, grass for feeding and potential possibilities, many of the first settlers who came to Sully County decided that Lincoln Township was the "cream" of the county.



Mr. and Mrs. Otto Johnson. Early Settlers of Lincoln Township.

Mr. and Mrs. Otto Johnson and two sons, Charles and Emel, settled in Lincoln Township in 1884, and lived on the original homestead until Mr. Johnson passed away. Charles remained on the home place and Emel moved into Summit Township.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Osterkamp and son, Lawrence, homesteaded on the Northwest of 10 and the Northeast of 17, in 1886. Harry and Carl, sons of Mr. and



Mr. and Mrs. William Toomey. Pioneers of Lincoln Township.



Lincoln Township Sunday School. 1919. Back row, left to right — Ruby Shore, Flo Allison, Mrs. Ed Baker, Mrs. John Quade, Tillie Allison, Mrs. Jessie Allison, Mrs. Martin Sorenson, Lena Shore, Marie Shore and Edith Baker. Seated, middle row — Vera Allison holding daughter, Anna McCabe, holding baby, Marie Sorenson, Hazel Sorenson and Mrs. Earl Allison and baby. Front row — Paul Shore, Joyce Baker, Johnny Quade, Wilmer Shore, Lilly Halsey, Vera Mercer and Edna Baker.

Mrs. Lawrence Osterkamp, were born in Lincoln Township and made their home there.

Another pioneer was N. P. Olson, who also came in 1886, and settled on the Northeast of Seven. His son, Ernest, was born in Lincoln and made his home on the same section. Ernest tells of one of his mother's first experiences with the fire flies or lightning bugs, as they were sometimes called. Mrs. Olson had been watching for her husband, who had been delayed in Blunt until after dark, and as she looked out of the window, she saw little lights flicker here and there. She became frightened, thinking there were Indians outside moving around with lanterns. She hurriedly bundled the children into the dugout and barred the door, and anxiously watched through the window until her husband arrived.

Three schoolhouses were built in the township in 1885, and the teachers were Miss Elizabeth Smith, Miss May Chalfant and Miss Mable Mills. In 1908, the North Lincoln School became the meeting place for a newly organized church and Sunday School services which was active for 16 years. This was a part of the Methodist

charge of Blunt. Other organizations to meet in this school were Farm Bureau, Farmers Union, Ladies Aid, Mother's Club and two Extension clubs. Mrs. John Quade taught the North Lincoln School for many years.



Eighth Grade Class at North Lincoln School, 1923. Left to right — John Quade, Matt Glanzer, Hazel Sorenson, Preston Starbuck and Spencer Tunnell. Mrs. Forrest Byrum was the teacher.



Martin Sorenson Family

Martin Sorenson came to Lincoln Township about 1900, from Udina, Illinois, when he was 17 years old and worked for the William and Lawrence Osterkamp families until he was 21. In 1904, he filed

for a claim on a homestead in Section Nine.

Mr. Sorenson built all of his buildings and started a large grove of trees which are still an outstanding landmark in Lincoln Township.

On March 27, 1907, he was married to Petra Inga Olson, who lived on a ranch south of Blunt. Five children were born to this union; three of whom died in infancy. Marie lives in Rapid City, and Hazel, now Mrs. Clarence Ludwig, lives in Blaine Township.

Marie married Glenn Bloom, of Pierre, in 1933, and to this union two sons were born, Norman and Maynard. After her separation in 1940, she married Harold Salathe, of Harrold, in 1949. A daughter, Valerie Kay, was born to them. The Salathe's lived on her father's place in Lincoln Township for about three years before moving to Rapid City, South Dakota, where they own and operate the Ponderosa Trailer Court.



Mr. and Mrs. Martin Sorenson and daughter, Hazel, 1936.

Mrs. Sorenson passed away on July 25, 1945, and after three years, Mr. Sorenson left his ranch and went to make his home with his daughter, Mrs. Clarence Ludwig and family. Again he showed his skill and love for trees by planting a large grove on the Ludwig farm in Blaine

Township. He also replaced many of the buildings either by remodeling or building new ones.



The Roddewig family moved on the John Jane place in the spring of 1934, which was one of the first homesteads in Lincoln Township. During the early forties, the homesteaders began to retire and move off their farms and the younger people moved in.

John and Frank Moore moved to Blunt and the home place was later sold to John Zebroski.

Mr. and Mrs. John Quade moved to Onida and their farm was sold to Charles Hiett, of Texas.

Mr. and Mrs. Gerhardt Fast moved to Minnesota. Mr. and Mrs. I. F. Steiner also sold out and moved to Pierre. Mr. and Mrs. William Short moved to Rapid City and their place was later sold to Johnny and Bennie Gross of Blaine Township.

Elmer Lehmkuhl purchased the Fast and Comstock places. George Fanger bought the old Osterkamp farm, and Sig Severson bought the Romine place.

Pete Griffin lives on the William Eckert farm. Mrs. Eckert makes her home in Blunt since the death of her husband.

John Hofer, Ed Fast, Joe and Leonard Pollman, Andy Rose and F. D. Albertus also have farms in Lincoln Township.

In 1949, Charles Roddewig sold his place and purchased the Charles Johnson farm where he and his son, John, ranch and farm.



The Lincoln P.T.A.

The first Parent-Teacher Association in Sully County was organized in Lincoln Township on October 30, 1937.

Mrs. Nannie M. Ellis, then a teacher in the South Lincoln School, and now at



Martin Sorenson Farm in Lincoln Township



Mr. and Mrs. William Eckert. Pioneers of Lincoln Township.

home in Pierre, and Mrs. John C. Quade, now of Onida, were the co-organizers.

The name "The Lincoln P.T.A." was chosen and started with a membership of 27, growing each year to a membership of 46.

Mrs. Quade was the first president and held that office for six consecutive years. Mrs. Ellis was vice president; Carl Osterkamp, treasurer, and Mrs. Frank Moore, secretary. Mrs. George Fanger was the second president and held the office until The Lincoln P.T.A. disintegrated.



LITTLE BEND TOWNSHIP

Some of the first white families to inhabit Little Bend were the James Colemans, Joe Binders, John Greens, the Hietts and possibly others.

James Coleman, Sr., and his son, James, Jr., appeared before J. H. Gropengieser, notary public, on March 15, 1886, as witnesses in the cash entry protest case of Coleman vs Robb, involving the title to a valuable tract of land located in the Bend. Mrs. Coleman taught school at the Alexander School.

Jeff Sage was a successful grower of

a new variety of golden-yellow watermelons, the finest melon grown at that time. He also was the proprietor of a general store.

Joe Binder also opened a general store in Little Bend in 1889. His trade was almost wholly with the Indians.

John Green raised nearly 200 bushels of fine Blue Victor potatoes on an acre of land during the growing season of 1889.

The Pierre Ranch and Cattle Company, operated by George W. Lumley and sons, George, Jr., Robert and Harry, purchased the Little Bend in 1896, and had it stocked with several hundred head of cattle. George, Jr. operated the ranch until 1907, when it was sold to H. P. Knox.



The Knox Family

Mr. and Mrs. H. P. Knox and family came to Little Bend from Iowa, in 1902. Besides ranching, they operated a grocery store and post office. Mr. Knox installed a sawmill on his ranch and sawed most of the large cottonwood trees into lumber. Later he moved to Onida and was engaged in the implement business together with his sons, Maynard and Bert. Mr. and

Mrs. William Crawford operated the ranch and farm land for several years. Mrs. Crawford (Ruth) was a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Knox. The ranch was sold to Ed Sutton in 1924. Having lived near the "Old Muddy Missouri" most of his life, Mr. Knox spent most of his last years following his favorite sport of fishing in the Missouri River, just south of the Sutton Ranch. On September 8, 1941, he failed to return. His overturned boat was found, and this, with days of fruitless search which followed, established beyond reasonable doubt the fact and manner of his passing.



The Alexander Family

Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Alexander and four children, Roland, Ethan, Lela and Alta, came to Sully County in the spring of 1906. That fall, Baby Glee was born. Mrs. Alexander was formerly Cora Acheson, and her parents, Mr. and Mrs. James Acheson, and two sisters, Mrs. H. P. Knox and Florence, who later married Henry Groseclose, were also residents of Sully County.

The first year Mr. Alexander worked for William Floyd and the family lived in one of the Floyd houses close by. Later the Alexanders homesteaded in Little Bend Township, near the Missouri River, and lived there for many years. The youngest child, Jay, was born about three



Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Alexander.
Early Settlers of Little Bend Township.

years after the family came to Sully County.

Mr. Alexander raised cattle and always had a large and bountiful garden. He sold tomatoes and melons to those who came to Little Bend in the fall to pick wild fruit. He also trapped wild animals during the winter and sold the furs to help support the family. After the government bought their ranch in 1936, they purchased a home in Pierre where they lived until he passed away in June, 1946, and Mrs. Alexander, in December, 1948.

Roland Alexander married Jennie Bennett, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Bennett. They have three children and live in Rawlins, Wyoming.

Ethan married Winnie Hiett. They live in a log house on the west side of the Missouri River at the mouth of the Cheyenne River.

Lela married Clifford Sargent in 1920. They have two boys, Earl and Robert.

Alta married Basil Flanagan. They live in California and have two children.

Glee was married to William Pulliam. They have two children and live in Huron.

Jay is married to Gladys West, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Fred West. They have two children.



Clifford Sargent Family

Clifford Sargent came to Sully County in the spring of 1917, from Madison, South Dakota. There was a great deal of snow in the county at that time and one could walk from the top of a railroad car unto a hard snowbank. Mr. Sargent stopped in Onida for a couple of weeks. Then he and two companions headed west with four horses pulling each wagon and shoveled the snow out and made camp. Their neighbors were Bert Garrett, Tom Lytle, the Floyd Brothers, John Dolan and Paul Pitlick and Joe. Clifford stayed there about two weeks and then went to work for the Garrett Brothers, working there about three years.

In 1920, Clifford married Lela Alexander, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Alexander. The young couple purchased the Coleman place, better known as the Sheets farm, where they still live.

The Sargents have two sons, Earl and



McMacken Family Reunion, about 1910. Three generations of McMackens of Little Bend Township.

Robert. Both boys graduated from the eighth grade at West Grandview School and from Onida High School. Earl is married to Elaine Trumble, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Trumble. They have six children, two boys and four girls. Robert (Bob) Sargent is still at home helping with ranch operations.



Some of the early school teachers in Little Bend Township were Mrs. Belle Mc-

Macken, Blanche Bagby and Bertha Bagby.

The Little Bend School was taught by Mrs. Florence Groseclose in 1912-13.

Ergo Hull built a log schoolhouse which was taught by Florence Nystrom (Mrs. James Sutton). She lived in the schoolhouse during the term of school and the Hull family later used the building as a kitchen. During the 1916-17 school term, Miss Nystrom had eight pupils — four Wright children, who lived on the Fred West Island, but attended school in Little Bend; three Hull children, Ergo Jr., Frances and Priscilla and Loren Christy.



When Little Bend, a horseshoe shaped tract of land almost surrounded by the Missouri River, was sold to Ed Sutton in 1924, his son, James and family moved there the following year and made their home there for 14 years. They operated the ranch which was ideal for cattle with its river bottoms of alfalfa and hay, hills for grazing land, and trees for shelter from the summer heat and the winter storms. No other shelter was necessary.

The many hundreds of Hereford cattle and horses roaming the hills and valleys were cared for by James Sutton for 14 years; and many thousands of feet of lumber, wood posts and slabs were sold each year. The sawmill was operated for



Little Bend School, 1912. Mrs. Florence Groseclose, teacher, Back row, left to right — Lela Alexander, Bert Knox, Ethan Alexander and Mayard Knox. Front row — Clyde Wright, Glee Alexander and Leota Knox.



Florence Nystrom (Mrs. James Sutton).
When she taught school in the log schoolhouse in Little Bend, 1916-17.

several years by a group of Missourians hired by the Suttons.

It was not an unusual sight to look out and see a group of Indians, who had come across the river by boat, to try to make a trade for a cow, horse, pig, or even chickens, geese, grain or lumber. They were very friendly and attended the neighborhood pie and basket socials and school programs. Some of the Indians intermarried with the white people.

In 1936, the Little Bend was taken over by the government under the Submarginal Land Program. All occupants were ordered to vacate and all homes were destroyed, as they were mostly log houses and could not be moved. The government erected a new six-room house for the caretaker. James Sutton was hired for three years. During the years of relief work, many log houses were constructed from green logs. About 20 families resided there at one time. Building dams and clearing brush were their projects. During their spare time, fishing, hunting and boating became a great sport. The government stocked the Bend with wild turkeys and pheasants. When the turkeys

arrived, their wings were clipped, making them easy prey to the ever-howling coyotes, as well as the hunters.

The government purchased this land for a game preserve and many deer, antelope, coons, wildcats, wolves and beaver inhabit this area. Many camp sights and picnic grounds were cleared and brick and stone fireplaces erected.

This land later became a Bombing Range. "No Admittance" signs were posted on top of the hills at the entrance to Little Bend. However, this government project did not prove successful so was moved just across the river.

In the near future, Little Bend will be inundated by the waters of the Oahe Dam.



MILFORD TOWNSHIP

One of the earliest families to settle in Milford Township were Mr. and Mrs. Martin Schreiber and children, Salomea, Margaret, Mary, George, John Mike, Tom, Fred and Charles. They were very industrious people and soon had their homestead equipped with living quarters, barn for cattle and horses and sheds for chickens and other poultry.

After Martin Schreiber passed away in March, 1891, his sons took over the active management of the farm. George planted 200 apple trees on their land, eight of which were bearing during the 1892 season. He also planted 200 native plum trees, gooseberries, raspberries, cur-



Three Schreiber Brothers, 1895. Left to right — Tom, Fred and Charles.



John Schreiber, Sr., Hmoestead, 1908 Left to right — Esther, Alma and Arnold on pony; Mrs. L. P. Anderson; Mrs. John Schreiber, Sr.; John Schreiber, Sr.; Sophia, holding sister Kathryn, and L. P. Anderson.

rants and grapes. It wasn't long before the Schreiber farm was a show place.

In 1906, Charles Schreiber went to Africa as a Missionary.

Salomea Schreiber sold her tree claim to Charles Lomheim in 1918, which was located in the northeast corner of Milford Township. Charles married Sophia Schreiber in 1921, and they made their home there until 1938, when they moved to Agar where they still reside.



Mr. and Mrs. Fred Schreiber, 1900. Pioneers of Milford Township.

Mrs. Mary Schreiber bought the old Preacher Westphal farm in 1920. They moved here from Garner Township. A nice grove of trees was on the farm planted by Mr. Westphal. In 1934 Mrs. Mary Schreiber, Edwin and Grandma Louise Weidemann moved to Agar. Albert and family carried on the farming. Some of the improvements include a new chicken house, broader house and a hog shed. The old porch of the house was removed and a larger one was added and the house was generally remodeled on the inside and a new storm cellar was built. Also some more trees were set out. Mrs. Birdie Schreiber and family still live on the farm.

The George Schreiber farm was sold to Frank Wink, and in 1942 was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. Fred Smith. The Smiths remodeled the inside of the house and planted more trees, otherwise the original homestead is the same.

Arnold Schreiber is a native son, and has lived in Milford township all his life. For many years, he and his family lived on his father's homestead. In 1947, Arnold bought the Martin Schreiber estate in the northwest corner of Milford. Much credit can be given to the family for making this farm one of the nicest in the



Albert and Edwin Schreiber. Sons of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Schreiber.

township. A full set of farm buildings were built and a beautiful modern home was built in 1948. Trees were set out for wind break, and great care was taken in landscaping the yard.

The Schreibers received first in the state for the most improvements made on a farm in one year, such as home beautifying, wind breaks and modern farm buildings.

In 1958, Arnold received the award for Soil Conservation for Sully County. He was the first farmer to receive that honor.

Two of his boys, Walter and Marion, help with the farm operations. Walter and family live north of the main house, which was formally the Art Westphal place. This house was converted into a home from

one of the oldest schoolhouses in Potter County. Marion and family live in a trailer house just east of the big house.

The old John Schreiber home has been vacant many years but the land is farmed by various members of the family.

Mrs. John Schreiber, Sr. lives in Agar with her son and daughter, John and Alma Schreiber. She is 88 years old.



In 1883, two young men, Henry Rausch and Peter Arth, from Port Washington, Ohio, came to Sully County via Blunt, South Dakota, driving one mule and an oxen hitched to their covered wagon.



Four Generations of Schreibers, 1957. Left to right — Mr. and Mrs. Walter Schreiber and daughter, Dawn Celene, Great Grandmother Wilhelmina Schreiber and Grandfather Arnold Schreiber.

While building their sod shanty, they used their wagon tipped upside down as a shelter. Anxiously wanting to see and visit their only neighbor, they went over the hill to the west to visit "Aunt Kate Sutton".

They lived in Sully County for a few years, but because of the lack of water, Mr. Rausch bought a pre-emption in nearby Potter County where water could be found. Two years later, Mr. Rausch's bride, Louise Hester, and Peter Arth's bride, Elizabeth Rausch, came from Ohio to Blunt where the two couples were married before going to their claims on the Artichoke Creek.

Mother and sisters of John Schreiber, Sr., 1905. Left to right — Mary, Mrs. Martin Schreiber, Salomea and Margaret.

Fred Peterson Homestead

In June of 1882, Mr. and Mrs. Frederick C. Peterson and two small daughters, Frederica and Ida, set out from Denmark for America, to obtain so called "Free Land."

The voyage across the Atlantic was not as speedy as that of later years, by steamer, air plane nor jet air-liner, but by sail — long and tedious and most uncomfortable, due to passengers in upper bunks who were sea sick.

Arriving at Ellis Island, they were asked to show their certificates of vaccination against small pox.

At Madison Square Garden the Customs officials poked about, searching through their meager supply of bedding, clothing and a few cooking utensils for smuggled valuables, finding none.

Having heard Horace Greeley's slogan, "Go West, Young Man," and being persuaded by railroad representatives, the family went by train, from New York City to Council Bluffs, Iowa, remaining there one year.

The following year, 1884, land in Dakota Territory was being opened to homesteaders; the government office being located in Huron. Mr. Peterson filed on the Northeast of Section 26-116-77, in what became Milford Township.

Coming by train to Blunt, purchasing a team of horses and wagon, their household goods were soon loaded and the trip northward begun. They passed through the small village of Onida which later became the County seat, and drove onward another ten miles. They arrived at the place which became their home for over 50 years.

The tall grass waving in the wind gave promise of fertile soil beneath. As the years passed, Mr. Peterson became owner of two more adjoining quarters of land.

Establishing a home on the prairie was no small undertaking as a shack or house had to withstand the storms of summer and winter. Lack of shallow well water which was a necessity was always a handicap in raising stock. A farmer could not depend on his grain crop alone for a living.

Four more children, Alex, Emma, Matilda and Otto were born to them in South Dakota.

The Petersons lived through prosper-

ous times, and also years when hail storms destroyed crops in a few moments, drouth, grasshoppers and dust storms came to plague the farmer.

The Peterson children attended the Milford School. Some of their teachers were — Ethel Ring, Hattie Hunt, Chas. Johnson, Minnie Lockwood, Frederica Peterson, Chas. Perry, Ethel Clark, Anna Livingstone, Minnie Livingstone, Addie Jordan, D. I. Jordan, Vena Cass, Calvin Barber, Lulu Schilling, Jas. P. Cavanaugh, Mr. Dart, and Sadie Coe.

A few of their early day neighbors were the Walter Prices, Carl Sorensens, Rev. H. A. Westphals, Chris Hartmans, Marcus Hoisingtons, Barney Schultz's, Hugh McKays, Christian Doerrs, Fred and Carl Brandts, Frank Howards and Bert Mosher.

Frederica, oldest daughter in the family, taught in the country schools. After her marriage to Albert Linnell, they lived in eastern Sully County, later moving to Charles Mix County where their sons, Oliver and Donald, farm near Lake Andes. A daughter, Violet Ross, lives at Tangent, Oregon, and Edith Sampson lives at Corson, South Dakota.

Ida worked in various homes until her marriage to Marvin Ried. After farming in Potter County a number of years, they moved to Oregon. Their children, Verna Selisky, Florence Neidert, Harry, and Pauline Scott, all live in Oregon.

Alex, oldest son, married Josie Herick of Potter County. They lived on farms in Sully County. Their children, Stanley and Violen, both live in Wisconsin.

Emma completed the eight grades in the country school. She took a Business Course at Huron College and remained at home to help her mother whose health was failing.

Matilda attended Gettysburg High School for two years; taught a few terms in the country schools, later attending Business College in Omaha, Nebraska. She was appointed postmaster in Agar in 1914, serving until her resignation in 1928.

Otto, the youngest son, helped his father on the farm until his death in 1913, caused by lightning when he was only 20 years old.

Of the original family, only Ida Ried and Matilda remain.

The P. M. Venner family of Madison, South Dakota, moved on the Peterson farm in 1920. The following year all the buildings were moved east from the old location to the top of the small hill where they now stand.

The Peterson land was recently sold to William and Stanley Asmussen, of Agar, South Dakota.



Cyrus Lyons Homestead

Cyrus C. Lyons was another early settler in Milford. He came there as one of the many young bachelors, but soon began courting Miss Maggie Mulligan. Cyrus and Maggie were married and built up their homestead.

Their son, Alvin, brought his bride, Helene, to the old homestead in 1923, which has been their home since. The old house has had several face liftings and now it is modern and very a comfortable home. In 1956 a new downstairs bedroom and bathroom were added. Improvements have been made on the tenant house in the form of a bedroom and porch. In 1954, two new granaries were built and in 1958 two steel ones were added. A couple groves of trees have been set out. The first one didn't survive the drouth and grasshoppers, but the second one is as fine as can be found in the township. The two families employed by the Lyon's



Mr. and Mrs. Cyrc C. Lyons. On their wedding day.

are Mr. and Mrs. Fred Nickels and Monty, and Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Schmitt.

Mrs. Maggie Lyons lives in Agar and runs a hardware and variety store there.



Fred Lehmkuhl Farm

Fred Lehmkuhl came to Sully County in June, 1905, from Preston, Iowa. He homesteaded in Grandview Township, seven miles west of Okobojo, in 1906. On June 6, 1907, he married Lillian Westphal and they established their home on the Henry Frahm farm, which Fred had pur-



Lyons Family About 1923. Left to right — Cy Lyons, background; Richard and D. J. Martin, with their Collie dog; Maggie Lynos (Mrs. Cy); Rena Lyons; Helen and Alvin Lyons, and Fern and Donald Martin.



Mr. and Mrs. Fred Lehmkuhl. On their wedding day in June, 1907.

chased. They lived there until September, 1911, when they moved back to Iowa. Then in 1917, they moved back to their farm home in Milford Township and lived there since.

Five sons were born to Fred and Lillian Lehmkuhl: Elmer, Wilber, Merlin, Clifford and Merle.

Elmer married Marian Thomas Richardson on June 8, 1946, and they have lived in Lincoln Township since 1947.

Four children were born to this marriage; Connie, Charles, Ellen and David. An older daughter, Sharon, was born to Marian in 1944 by a previous marriage.

Wilber lives at home with his father on the home place, two miles north of Agar.

Merlin was married to Helen Fox in November, 1939, and they live in Potter County. They have four children: Roger, Bonnie, Cora Jean and Ernie.

Clifford lives in South Buffalo.

Merle married Dortha Vader in July, 1941, and the following February, he went into the army. A son was born to them on August 26, 1942, named Dennis. Merle was killed in action on Leyte in November, 1945.

Mrs. Fred Lehmkuhl passed away July 26, 1957.

Fred Lehmkuhl had an artesian well put down on his farm in 1958, after hauling water to his farm from Agar for 42 years.



Two schoolhouses were built in Milford Township in 1885. Mrs. Mary Scriven and Milton McCullough were the first teachers. The Milford schoolhouse became a landmark, as it could be seen for miles. It was the scene of many social, political and religious gatherings through the years.



An old land mark in Milford for many years was the German Lutheran Church which was built in 1908, before there was a town of Agar. It was located south of the old Walter Price farm on old



Milford Schoolhouse, 1908. Revival meeting conducted by the Rev. Herbert Humble, of Cincinnati, Ohio.



Charles W. Johnson, about 1894. When he taught several terms at East Milford School. He was Matilda Peterson's first grade Teacher.

Hi-Way 83. Some of the early members were the following families: Fred Brandt, Carl Brandt, Joachim Mundt, William Mundt, Carl Mundt, Aaron Hagney, Fred Bruns, Fred Weideman, Carl Weideman, Chris Kuhl, William Schreiber and Mrs. Marie Falkenhagen. Carl Mundt was the church secretary and treasurer from 1907 to 1933.

A ladies aid was organized under the leadership of Pastor Hinners in 1921. The ladies worked hard to pay off the church debt.

In 1947, the Lutheran Church was moved to Agar. Rev. Albert G. Palechek was the pastor at the time.



Tom Sutton Homestead

Tom and Inez Sutton and family came to Milford Township from Clinton, Illinois, March, 1910. Their neighbor to the east was John Schreiber; to the north, George Schreiber, and to the south, Walt Comeau.

The spring of 1919 found Tom busy building a new two story modern house which was the finest in the township at that time.

In 1943, Mr. and Mrs. Sutton moved

to Onida. Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Smith (daughter Grace) bought the farm in 1948. Last year the farm was sold to Mr. Lovercheck of Lincoln, Nebraska.



Harold Mundt, a native of Sully County, lives on his parent's farm which his father bought from Bert Mosher in 1906. The house was enlarged in 1914, when Carl brought his bride, Addie Sorenson, there. A new addition was added in 1918 and the artesian well was drilled the same year. Other buildings were added from time to time and trees were set out to beautify the farm. When the R.E.A. came the house was modernized.



Walter Venner purchased a half section of land from Guy Mitchell in 1915, which was located south and east of Agar. After serving in the World War I, he returned to his farm. In 1939, he went into the turkey business which he discontinued in 1956. Walt still lives on the farm and has his land in the Soil Bank.



Mr. and Mrs. Tom Sutton, 1945. Pioneers of Milford Township.



The Frank Schultz Family, 1946. Mr. and Mrs. Schultz, daughter Neda and son Norman.

In 1918, Frank Schultz bought the North Half of Section 32-116-77 from Ralph and Nora Goodhue, of Frankfort, South Dakota. The present buildings and improvements were put on the tree claim of Charlie Johnson. At that time it was the finest grove in the country and could be seen for miles around. During the drought and grasshopper years of the thirties most of the trees died out and a few have been replanted. Necessary buildings were built and an artesian well put down. In 1924, a modern bungalow type house was built which is the present home of Mr. and Mrs. Schultz. Since the retirement of Frank, son Norman has taken over the farm operations.

Mr. and Mrs. Norman Schultz moved to the old Charlie Johnson farm in 1939, west of Agar. The land at that time was owned by Mr. Finley of Hamburg, Iowa.

In 1946, Norman purchased the quarter section north of his father's place where he put up a fine set of buildings. The first project was a beautiful Spanish type home which is modern and very convenient. Two granaries followed as they were needed and in 1957, a large steel quonset was erected. A grove of trees was started in 1957 which shall add beauty to the farm in years to come. A water system has just been completed.

Following World War I, many changes took place in Sully County and Milford Township. There was a land boom. Carl Falkenhagen was the Agar Realator and many land transactions were made through him. People of eastern South Dakota were coming a little farther west and found Milford Township the ideal spot to locate. The large wheat crops raised here during the war was a great inducement for them to buy.



The Schnose Homestead

Mr. and Mrs. Gus Schnose came to Milford from Ashton, South Dakota, in 1919, and the half section of land west of Agar became their home. Two sets of buildings were put up, one on each side of the road. The artesian well is on the south quarter where the big house and most of the farm buildings are located. This is where Mr. and Mrs. Herman Neuhauser and family (the daughter) lived for some years. The Schnose house was sold and moved to Onida. Mrs. Schnose, now 87, lives in Hurley, South Dakota, as do the Neuhausers.

Verne Pearson and family have lived on the Schnose farm since 1946, when they bought it. A lovely grove of trees has been planted on both quarters and the house has been remodeled. Otherwise, the farm is much the same.



The Joachim Family

The old Barney Schultz place became the home of Mr. and Mrs. William Joachim and family in 1919. They had previously lived in Agar. In 1947, the old Charles Johnson house from Troy Township was bought by the Joachims and moved to their farm. After modernizing the home, they lived there until they moved to the Carl Strand house which they purchased in 1958. Ruben Joachim and family now live on the home place.

The E. J. Joachim family came to Milford in 1919 from Delmont, South Dakota. The old Martin Schreiber farm became their home. There were many trees on the place, wild fruit trees and tame fruit trees which were planted from time to time. It was always a great pleasure to visit the Joachims to see their well kept

farm, beautiful trees and gorgeous flowers. Their trees were the scene of many public and church picnics. Mr. and Mrs. Joachim moved to Gettysburg in 1949. Mr. Joachim still lives there.

Oscar Joachim and family live on the farm. In 1948 a spacious home was built. Trees have been planted east of the house making the yard an ideal place for outdoor living in the summer time. Last year a large new barn was built which adds very much to the beauty of the place. Oscar is a member of the Agar School board.

Chris Joachim and family came to Milford from Delmont, South Dakota, in 1923. He bought the old Bert Mosher farm. A large grove of trees was planted by Chris. It was the one grove that survived the drouth and grasshoppers. In 1934, the family moved to Tolstoy, South Dakota. Mrs. Joachim lives at Cresbard, South Dakota.

Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Joachim made their first home on the Pringle farm west of Agar. Later they occupied the Schnose place. In 1944, they purchased the Chris Joachim farm. At that time there were no buildings on the place. A granary was erected in 1946 and in 1948, a good looking house was built, which is modern in every way. In 1957, the land was sold to Mr. Lovercheck. The Joachims still own all the buidlings except the granary and farm the land for the new owner.

Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Joachim came to Milford as newlyweds in 1930. They established their new home on the old Charlie Sutton farm, southwest of Agar, then owned by E. J. and Adam Joachim. In 1933, a small house was moved on the farm which became the home of Alvin's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Adam Joachim. In 1942, Mr. and Mrs. Adam Joachim moved to Agar. In 1942, Alvin bought the Charles Lomheim farm. Their holdings were sold to Alvin Lyons, making an ideal set up for Lyons as their lands joined. In 1950, a bungalow house was purchased at St. Lawrence, South Dakota, and moved to the farm which was remodeled and modernized. The old house was sold and moved away.

The farm of the late Oswald Westphal was bought by the Joachims in 1952. On this farm is a lovely grove of trees which was the pride and joy of Oswald. The house was moved farther east and remodeled into an up-to-date home, in

1955. Son, Donald and family make their home there now.



Jesse Robbennolt Family

Jesse Robbennolt and family came to Milford Township from Delmont, South Dakota, in 1920. The same fall an addition was built onto the house to make more accommodations for the family. Trees were planted to add beauty to the farm and seven granaries were built as they were needed. In 1958, two new steel granaries were added. A new addition was put onto the house in 1955, in the form of a bathroom and utility room. One outstanding feature of this farm was that water was hauled from Agar for livestock and house use for 37 years. A new artesian well was drilled in 1958. Mr. and Mrs. Robbennolt have spent two winters in Florida, one in California, and the last ten years in the Grande Valley, of Texas.



The Comeau Homestead

Harry Venner and bride came to live on the Walt Comeau place which had been purchased by C. E. Garrett. This was the Venner's home from 1920 to 1947, when they moved to Agar where they still live. The present tenants are Mr. and Mrs. James W. Cass and son Hilie. The Cass's have planted trees on the north and south of the house.



Albert Tegland Farm

Another newcomer to Milford was William F. Naughton and family, in 1921. He bought the old Carl Falkenhagen place in Garner Township. It may be interesting to know that at one time one of the Milford schools was held in the Tegland home. A special large room was built for that purpose. William Naughton now lives in Pierre with his daughter, Ethel Lloyd.

In 1940, Donald Naughton bought the farm. A new modern Spanish type home was built in 1947, for the enjoyment of his family. The old house was bought by H. C. Calhaun, moved to Pierre and made into an apartment house. A recent improvement is the building of a modern hog house and in 1958, a new artesian well was drilled. Donald is the president of the R.E.A. and a member of the school board of the Agar Independent Consolidated School District.

The Carr Family

Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Carr and family came to Milford Township in 1935, and lived on the Guy Schnose place. In 1939, they moved to the Charles Lomheim farm and in 1942, Mr. Carr bought raw land and built up his present home. The house was built in 1947, which is modern and up to date. Their son Eddie Bill, and family, live on the same farm and help with the farming operations.



Henry Olson Family

Henry Olson bought the old Walter Price place in 1938. The family lived in Harrison Township while Henry and the boys farmed the new land as their house had burned down. In 1940, the family moved to the Fred Peterson place and farmed that for several years. In 1944, a house was moved onto the Price place replacing the one lost in fire.

The Olsons purchased the William Harris house in Agar where they lived for several years. When the R.E.A. came in 1950, the Olson farm house was remodeled and modernized making a lovely home for Mr. and Mrs. Royal Olson and family. Royal has taken over the farming since his father retired.



W. J. Asmussen moved the Matilda McGuire house from Onida to his land west of Agar in 1944. Mr. and Mrs. Phil Marshall and family have been living here since 1953. In 1956, the house was remodeled and a new kitchen was built to the north.

In 1955, Asmussen put down a large flowing artesian well on one of his Milford holdings. New livestock scales were installed in 1957 and last but not least are the three rows of steel granaries, 60 in all, one mile south of Agar on Hi-Way 83, which stand there like sentinels on guard.



In the early twenties the house was built where Mr. and Mrs. Bernell Kuhrt and Faye now live. William Pringle, of Pierre, owns the farm. The Kuhrts moved here in 1945.



In 1947, Alfred Christopher purchased a half section of land from Mr. Finley and farmed it until he sold it to T. D. Lovercheck, of Lincoln, Nebraska, in 1957.

Most recent residence of Milford Township are Mr. and Mrs. John Silbaugh and family, Miss Maud Archer and Mr. and Mrs. Joe Rinearson and family.



Very few of the pioneer families are left in Milford Township.

Thus comes to close the history of Milford Township. There is talk of irrigation coming to the township from Oahe Dam and if this materialized, Milford will become a very prosperous township and the increase in population will be tremendous.



MORTON TOWNSHIP

The first settlers in Morton Township started to arrive in the early spring of 1884; some of which were Frank and John Lawrence, T. J. Yoder, L. S. Howard, Frank McCullough, Mrs. Lois Houck, P. W. Lavery, Pete Schreiner and others.

Frank and John Lawrence located on Section 25 and both built homes. One of the best artesian wells in Sully County was located on this section. The two men left their homestead and tree claim and went back to their native state of Missouri. C. C. Larson lived on this section for a number of years. They have a son, Henry. In 1924, Orville Morris purchased the farm and stayed there until the thirties, when the Rural Credit took it over. Mr. and Mrs. Morris and three children then moved to Idaho. Mr. and Mrs. Thomas and son, Robert, lived there a few years before Ralph Wagner purchased the land in the forties from the Rural Credit Corporation. The Thomas family moved to Iowa. The Charles Wagner family, son of Ralph Wagner, live there at present and intend to make it their home.

T. J. Yoder lived on Section 32 for a number of years before moving to the state of Washington. The land was used for pasturing horses and later occupied by the Tim Shoup family. Then William Campbell, Sr., moved there from Highmore, South Dakota, and raised cattle. He purchased the land in the twenties. His son, Bill, and family live there at the present time.

The Evans place is located on Section 30 south of Cottonwood Lake. Carl Gould and his family lived there for some time, followed by the Ed Palmer family. The buildings were burned in one of the se-

vere prairie fires in the township. A. S. Clouse purchased the land sometime in the late thirties or forties and built the place up again. The Clouse family lived there for some time and then moved to Onida, renting the farm to Marvin Rivenes. At the present time the place is occupied by Mr. McClain.

John and Adam Alberts located on Section Four in 1884. Adam left after making proof on his claim. John remained a bachelor and lived in his big white house. His mother, who had come here after her sons, kept house for him for many years. The place has long been disintegrated.

The Tagg farm, located on Section 19, north of Cottonwood Lake, was occupied by Mr. Winslow, a bachelor. The place has changed hands several times. The Anderson family lived there a couple of years, then Ed Houck. Then in the thirties, Ray Vader purchased the place and has made many improvements. The Vaders have a family of three girls and two boys.

At one time there was a home on Section Eight with various families living there at different times. A Mr. Houck and also Clarence Westphal lived there at one time.

Mr. and Mrs. G. T. Westphal and three-month-old daughter, Lucille, came to Morton Township in April, 1917, and located on Section 35. There were no roads or even fence posts at that time and neighbors were few and far between. Mr. Westphal erected a granary and the family made that their home until a house was built the following year. The West-

phals had nine children, all raised on this farm. The farm was sold to Glen James, of Texas, in 1949, and the family then moved to Onida where they have a lovely home and yard. Both Mr. and Mrs. Westphal are avid gardeners and raise vegetables, many kinds and varieties of flowers and have numerous fruit trees, bearing fruit, in their yard. All of their children are married and have left home.

Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Palmer and family lived on Section 31 for a number of years before moving to Onida. The buildings had been removed and in 1928, Fred Kuhns again built up the farm a little to the south of the original site and lived there for some time. The farm is vacant at the present time.

Joe Tobin lived on Section Four for quite some time and his place is now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Shattuck.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Kuhns also lived on Section Four in 1925. Mr. and Mrs. Stockstad, who live there at the present time, plan to move to Onida and the farm will then be vacant.

The Sundergaard farm is located on Section One and has been occupied by various families. The Thomas family is living there at the present time.

The Ester Ranch was located on Section 23. He lived there for many years and cared for sheep. A Mr. Freland also lived there at one time.

The McClain family lived on Section Seven for some time. Then Dan Clark moved there and built it up and still lives there with his son and family.

Ben Shoup built a home on Section Three in the forties and still lives there.



G. T. Westphal Farmstead, 1918. Residents of Morton Township.



First graders at South Morton School, 1924. Left to right — Gilbert Campbell, Irene Morris, Lucille and Alvina Westphal. Little Chris Fisner came the following year as a first grader.

A new modern home was built on Section 29, belonging to Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Rivenes and many trees planted. There are also good roads leading to their farm.

In 1917, there was only one schoolhouse located in Morton Township, and that was on Section 29, south of the lake. The teacher at that time was Marie Gavre. As most of the children lived in the north part of the township, the schoolhouse was moved to Section Eight in 1919, and was called the North Morton School. Then in 1924, another schoolhouse was built on the Northwest corner of Section 34 to accommodate the four children living in that area. It was a 12x16 foot building with a small entry and was called South Morton School. The first teacher was Alvin Goding. The four children attending the new school were Gilbert Campbell, Lucille and Alvina Westphal and Irene Morris. Within three years, this schoolhouse became inadequate, so another 16 feet were added. There were 19 children attending South Morton School in 1929. Now the second generation of children are attending this same school. The North Morton School was moved again to Section Three to accommodate the children in that part of the township.



Lee Westphal Family

Carl A. Westphal was born at Lansing, Iowa. He came to Sully County with his parents about 1897 living near what

used to be the Tom Sutton place. He later married Susie Siebrasse and they lived near the river in Potter County. To this family eight children were born, one passing away in infancy. The children are Lee, Floyd, Edna, Evyleen, Marvin, Elmer, and Glen.

The oldest son, Lee, was born August 1, 1910. He attended school near his grandparent's home at what was known as the Rausch school. After completing his grade school education he attended Agricultural School at Brookings four years.

On February 1, 1933, he married Berniece Joachim of Agar. They started their married life on one of the Doner farms near his father's home. Later, in 1944, they purchased the Walter Vetter farm in Farmington Township and have since resided there. In 1946, they purchased a house in Lebanon and had it moved to the farm. It was completely rebuilt and modernized, making a very comfortable home for the family. Later the barn was torn down and another one moved down from Forest City and it, too, was rebuilt. Granaries, sheds, and a tenant house were added to the farm later, and also a nice grove of trees has been planted to add to the attractiveness of the farm.

On October 31, 1935, Darlene was born to the Westphals. She married Billy Potts of Lebanon, and they have two

boys, Lonny and Randy, and one girl, Diane.

Mary Ann was the next child born to this couple. She married David Block of Webster, South Dakota, and they are living on a farm in Farmington Township. They have one daughter, Cathy.

Juanita is their third daughter. She is still in High School. Their first son, Terry Lee, was born in 1947, and their second son, Jerry, was born in 1953.

Some of the teachers who taught the Westphal children are Elva Jordan, Doris Wittler, Vivian Eliason, Veda Cass, Ardis Byrum, Rosella Pollman, Lois Westphal, Edith McKenney, and Don Ellickson.



NORFOLK TOWNSHIP

The rolling hills, combined with level terrain in Norfolk Township, has made it excellent for cattle grazing, along with the natural springs scattered throughout the township has made it ideal for large cattle ranches.

Mrs. Inger Maria Christensen made a homestead filing on the Southwest of Section Nine in Norfolk Township, and she and her family resided there during the eighties. This was one of the first large cattle ranches in the township. The Christensens left their ranch and settled in Kingsbury County where Mr. Christensen died. Their son, Martinus and family then returned to Norfolk Township and located on his mother's homestead where he raised cattle.

Other early homesteaders in the township were C. W. Houck, J. M. Kerr, C. B. Porter, a Mr. McGann, H. McNamara and numerous other families.

A town, named Norfolk, was established in the southeastern part of the township in 1883, and it had possibilities of becoming an enterprising community. Several business places were established, along with a postoffice, and about 20 families lived in that area. However, when the county seat was located more centrally in the township, Norfolk gradually became extinct until very few families remained there.

Two new 20x30 foot schoolhouses were constructed in Norfolk Township in 1885, at a total cost of \$910.00.

In the spring of 1928, the five families and/or partnerships in the township were H. P. Hanson, Albert Youngberg,

August Rupkalvis, Tom Jones - John Montieth, Ben Scheaffler - Tom Duncan.

From 1928 until 1934, weather conditions were so adverse that Tom Jones and John Montieth decided to dissolve partnership. Jones moved to Pleasant Township and Montieth went to Iowa. George Hayes of Pleasant Township moved to the Montieth place at this time and a few years later he moved to Coeur d' Alene, Idaho. After Hayes left Norfolk Township, his brother, Leo, moved on the place, and he, too, moved to Idaho in a few years.

In 1938, A. H. Bane moved from his farm in Norfolk Township to Onida and his son, Orren, sold out and moved to Elgin, Iowa. Mr. Bane passed away in Onida during the forties.

In the spring of 1941, Mr. and Mrs. Everett E. Money purchased the Schaeffler-Duncan ranch. They waited until the following spring to move, thus giving Mr. Schaeffler a chance to find another place. He bought the Southwest of 15-115-74 and built on it, but before the year ended he passed away, leaving the place to Mr. and Mrs. Duncan and son, Paul. In the fall of 1944, Paul married Wylla Mae Lemon, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harley Lemon, and they worked for Alvin Thomas and lived on his place in Pleasant Township.

In the spring of 1946, Tom and Anna Duncan moved to Pierre, leaving the ranch in charge of their son, Paul and his family. After the disastrous prairie fire of 1947, Paul sold the farm to James Brown, of Gettysburg, and moved to Highmore where they still reside.

During April of 1948, Mr. and Mrs. Russell Buchholz (the former Patricia Williamson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Williamson) purchased the Albert Youngberg place. They are living there now with their two children, Terry and Kathleen.

Sometime in 1944, Mr. and Mrs. Hansen moved to their south place, leaving her sister and husband, Mr. and Mrs. Basil Williams, of Cresbard, in charge of the home place. During the fall of 1946, the William's moved to Onida where their son, Ted, graduated from Onida High School. Shortly after this, Mr. Williams became very ill and passed away in January, of 1948.

In the fall of 1947, Mr. and Mrs. Han-

sen moved to Pierre and hired Kenneth Stoll to manage the ranch. Mrs. Hansen passed away in March, of 1957, leaving Mr. Hansen in the care of his daughter Vivian (Mrs. Marvin Ronan).

During the fall of 1951, the Ray Zebroski family moved to the Hansen ranch to work for them. At that time they had three children, Larry, LaVonne and Peggy. Later another boy, Freddie, came to join the family. In the spring of 1956, the Zebroski's purchased a ranch near Cottonwood, South Dakota, where they moved and still live.

After the death of his wife, H. P. Hansen divided his property among his three daughters. Mr. and Mrs. Ray Marso (Karol) received the home place and after remodeling, during the summer of 1957, they moved there and are still there. Mrs. Marvin Ronan received the south place and her son, Terry, and his wife live there with their four children, Donald, twins Faye and Fern, and Rex. Mrs. Ben Bouzek received the east place where Mr. and Mrs. Howard Brown live. They have lived there since January of 1947, having rented the place from Mr. Hansen until this time. When they moved there in 1947, one child had been born, Helen Alice, and since then five more, Anthony, Joan, Robert, Catherine and Pauline, have joined the household. Mrs. Brown is the former Eleanor Money.

During the time that James Brown owned the Duncan ranch, he moved the house to Gettysburg and shortly afterwards sold the place to John Day, of Onida. During Brown's ownership the entire section was added to the original quarter. Mr. Day built a new house, corals and other buildings and stocked it with cattle. One of his hired men, Howard Wargo and family, moved from Onida to run the ranch. They had two children when they moved in February, of 1952, James and Joette. Then in February of 1953, another daughter, Janette, was born. In August of that year they left and after living in Sioux Falls a short time, they moved to Longmont, Colorado, where Howard went into business for himself. Mrs. Wargo is the former Marie Brown, sister of Howard Brown. Mr. and Mrs. Harold West and two sons, Steven and Tom, then moved to the Day ranch. In the fall of 1954, a little girl, Tonna, made a welcome appearance.

August Rupkalvis moved to Section 28 in 1928, and ranched with his brother, Otto, until 1934, when Otto and his wife moved to Bridgewater, South Dakota. In September of 1935, August married Elizabeth Haveriy of Onida, daughter of Bert and Grace Haverly. August and Elizabeth have six children, Duane, Larry Dean, Betty, Jean, Renee Jill, and Brenda Kay. August is the only one left in Norfolk Township of the original family group. His two sons are gone from home and have positions of their own. Betty is a senior and Jean a freshman at Onida High School. Renee and Brenda are still at home, not quite old enough for school.

The Norfolk school closed in 1928, and didn't re-open until the fall of 1944, when it became necessary for the Rupkalvis children to attend the country school. There are nine pupils attending Norfolk School at the present time; Terry and Kathy Buchholz, Steve and Tom West, Donald Marso, Helen, Anthony, Joan and Robert Brown. Ralph Ripley, Jr. is the teacher. The schoolboard members are Mrs. Harold West, the former Alice Flood, Russell Buchholz, and August Rupkalvis.

On September 5, 1947, the greater share of Norfolk Township was burned by the disastrous prairie fire which started north of Highmore and met another smaller fire which had started north of Harold. The two fires, fanned by a strong wind, cut a wide path and burned north to Highway 212, where it was successfully extinguished.



OKOBOJO TOWNSHIP

Okobojo Township had the distinction of having the first settler in Sully County locate in that area in May, 1882; that person being Peter Brenan.

The land in Okobojo Township was opened for settlement in the spring of 1883, and there were many who came that year seeking new homes and use of the land. Among those coming that year were R. B. Whitamore, Henry Bossler, W. B. and Walter S. Hamilton, F. E. and William Fagner, A. A. and W. J. Klink, Henry Doffler, S. L. Chaddock, R. J. and William Courtney, Henry Potter, Jonathan Owen, John Snyder, E. L. and A. C. Gleason, E. M. Wise, Henry Swigler, J. C., Geo. S., Jackson C. and J. W. Holmes, H.

F. and D. D. Bryant, Dr. H. G., M. G. and George Pease, W. E. Kerr, John Groseclose, John S. and E. D. Green, W. W. Andrews, W. H. and H. A. McNutt, Charles Bunch, George Henderson, W. C. McDonald, E. D. Bowen, J. C. McMahon, J. Greenman, R. M. J. Tallman, A. D. Anderson, E. H. Southmaid, E. O. and Mike Kelly, R. P. Howard, James Boughton, John W. Carpenter, Steve A. Travis, I., W. D., Hugh and R. McGannon, L. H., John, Scott, C. H. and Frank Bruner, Annie E. Topliff, Lee Wheeler, John Koch, John W. Glessner, A. C. Parsons and Merit Sweeney.

The following year, 1884, still others came — C. C. Frost, Capt. B. and F. A. Sutherland, Frank Conklin, Col. E. P. Bunch, Samuel H. and Ed Ritter, Alvin Erb, Stephen Coe, W. W. Stewart, D. F. Sweetland, A. D. Harpold, M. C. Purshings, John Johnston, John Bradley, R. J. McKonkey, Thos. Porter, and possibly others.

The year 1885, saw William and R. J. Brownlee, John Millett, Mart Heineman and Adolph Smutz homesteading in Okobojo Township. H. C. Green and N. H. Thornton came in 1887.



The Green Family

The Green family were indeed pioneers. They located near Olivet, Dakota Territory in 1875, a time when Indians were as common as coyotes, and almost



The Will Green Family, about 1918. Early Pioneers of Okobojo Township. Front, seated — Mr. and Mrs. Will Green. Back, left to right — Willis, Frances and George.

as little tamed. Stirring adventures with the redskins marked their early life in that section.

Moving to this region in 1883, with a yoke of oxen and covered wagon, the family again took up the tasks of the pioneer. It was in the spring of that year that John Green filed on the homestead near Okobojo which was known by his name and later descended to his son. In those days, the boy, Will, busied himself with his schooling and the tasks common to youth. He served his apprenticeship as a printer at 18 years of age under Steve Travis, of the Okobojo Times.

Will was a Private in the first South Dakota Volunteer Infantry in the Spanish-American War and saw active service in the Philippines. It was there that he contracted malaria which finally resulted in complications, causing his death. After his return from the war, he became associated with John Livingstone in the Okobojo Times, and became its owner in 1910.

On July 24, 1902, Will Green married Madge Glessner. They lived on a farm north of Okobojo where their three children were born, Frances, Willis and George.

Frances married John W. Wilder and now lives in Greensboro, North Carolina. They have four boys. Willis married Lucille Kennedy and they lived in Okobojo Township until 1950, when they moved to



Sully County Spanish-American War Veterans. Taken in the Philippine Islands. Standing, left to right — Frank Groseclose, Will Green, Charles Green and Chris Mallack. Front row — Jessie Owens, Bill McNutt and Howard Boyles.

Onida and built themselves a home. George married Hazel Spencer, of Houghton, South Dakota. They also lived in Okobojo Township until they moved to Redfield, South Dakota, in 1942. They have one boy and two girls.

Will Green passed away on December 7, 1922, at Chamberlain, South Dakota. Mrs. Green then moved to Huron, South Dakota, where her children could attend high school and college. She passed away in June, 1944, at the home of her daughter in Greensboro.



While digging a well in Okobojo Township in the fall of 1888, R. J. Courtney discovered the bones of some extinct animal of a prehistoric period. The bones indicated that the animal was of immense size, fully, if not larger, than the mastodons unearthed in various parts of the country.



In 1939, Okobojo Township started recovering from the disastrous drouth, grasshopper infestation and business depression of the thirties. A few good years brought better crops, the grasshopper menace lessened and general business conditions improved.

Then came December 7, 1941, and World War II. The immediate plans of the young men of the community were changed. All who were eligible entered some branch of the Armed Forces. These young men were all sons or grandsons of South Dakota pioneers.

Hallie Glessner, son of H. C. Glessner and Beulah Bagby Glessner, passed away while in the service of his country. His brothers, John and William, were also in the Army. They are now in business in Fort Pierre. Robert Glessner died in a CCC Camp in the Black Hills.

Russell Green, son of Ross Green and Florence Bunch Green, spent five years in the Army. He lives in Pierre where he is employed by the State Highway Commission.

Maynard Green, Russell's brother, served in the Navy and is now in partnership with his father on their ranch.

Elmer Ripley, son of Milton Ripley, entered the Air Force and spent several months in a German prison camp. His home is in Onida.

Willis Green, son of Will Green and

Madge Glessner Green, served in the Army. He is in business in Onida.

Ray and Dale Bartels, while not sons of Okobojo pioneers, were in the Navy and Air Force, respectively. Ray lives in Onida and Dale is on a farm in Okobojo Township.

Beryl McGannon, son of Alex McGannon, was in the Army and is now residing in Pierre where he owns and operates the Cottage Grocery.

Of the many changes through the years, one of the most important was the closing of the McGannon Store and Post-office. The McGannon family moved to Pierre where they are now living. The store building was torn down and removed and the McGannon residence moved away. Mail service is now furnished by a Star route from Pierre.

The Groseclose house was also moved and a County shed stands on its site. The Methodist parsonage, a relic of Pioneer Days, has been removed to Onida and is owned by Mrs. Maud Hanson.

The Okobojo Townsite formerly owned by Alex McGannon and Milo Trumble is the property of Mr. and Mrs. Earl Sargent. Mrs. Sargent is the granddaughter of Milo Trumble. The Sargent home is the building that housed the central office of the Gas Belt Telephone Company. Telephone service is provided by the modern Sully Buttes Telephone Co-operative.

Of the pioneers who came to Sully County with their parents, only Ross Green and George Trumble remain in Okobojo Township. In 1883, when one year old, Ross traveled by covered wagon and mule team to a homestead in the western part of the county. The family soon moved to the ranch in Okobojo Township which is Ross's home today. Mrs. Ross Green, nee Florence Bunch, is also a Sully County pioneer.

George Trumble came to Sully County in 1885, when five months old. He is the son of Milo Trumble and has lived most of his life in Okobojo Township.

Other sons and grandsons of Okobojo pioneers living here are Maurice Green, son of Ross Green; Francis Ripley, son of Milton Ripley, and David Trumble, grandson of Milo Trumble. David Trumble's farm includes the townsite of Carson and was formerly the Milton Ripley home.

Many early settlers have passed away

in the last 20 years. Some of these are Charles Glessner; Mrs. Charles Glessner, the former Myrtle McGannon; Hal Glessner, brother of Charles Glessner; Madge Glessner Green, sister of Hal and Charles; Kitty Glessner Eakin, also a sister of Hal and Charles Glessner; Frank Ripley; Mr. and Mrs. Milton Ripley; Mr. and Mrs. Fred Fagner; Jesse (Jake), Harry and J. C. (Mont) Groseclose.



ONIDA TOWNSHIP

None of the names found in the filings of the eighties are to be found in the list of residents of Onida Township at the present time. The township has survived prairie fires, drouth, tornadoes, grasshopper plagues, dust storms, hail storms and blizzards, but, while some leave, others stay through thick and thin and new residents come in so that the courage and patience of the pioneers will continue, carried on by new hands until the end of time.

Mr. and Mrs. Elton Eller, the former Gloria Stumer, now live on the Southeast of Section One. They have two children, Edward, in Onida Grade School, and Aileen, under school age. Elton is the son of Lester and Nellie (Yung) Eller who lived on the place a number of years. Elton is a graduate of Onida High School with the class of 1941.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Hoover and their three children, Ruth, Russell and Charles, lived there several years after they moved from the Northwest of 12 during the twenties. Frank C. Hoover was born on April 6, 1887, in Norwalk, Ohio, the



Mr. and Mrs. Frank C. Hoover. Pioneers of Onida Township.

youngest of four children. His mother died when he was two years old and his grandmother, Mrs. Williams, raised him. His father later married Ida M. Williams and lived in Toledo, Ohio. Frank came to Onida in 1910, and operated a barber shop. In June 25, 1913, he was married to Hattie E. Johnson by the Rev. J. P. Williamson. In 1914, they moved to the Charles J. Johnson farm in Blaine Township and remained there three years and then moved back to Onida and lived in their home located on lots owned by Gordon Day. They also lived on the Wayne Nelson and Lester Eller farms. Frank was an auctioneer besides farmer and cried many sales in the northern part of the state until his health failed. He served several terms on the Onida Schoolboard in the forties and was a member of the Masonic Order. Before they moved to Onida, where they now reside, they purchased the farm in Garner Township where Russell and Charles and their families now live. Russell graduated from Onida High School in 1938. In 1947, he married Marcella Weiss, whose father managed the J. F. Anderson Lumber Yard in Onida for a number of years. They have three daughters, Hope, Kathy and Barbara. Charles was graduated in 1942, and in 1945, he married Helen Jean Small of Blunt. They have a daughter, Jane, and a son, John. Charles and Russell are engaged in farming and buying livestock. Ruth, Mrs. Bert Neiber, of Pierre, whose husband is co-owner of two shoe stores there, was graduated in 1933, and has two daughters, Nancy and Mary.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Nelson and two children lived here until his death in the twenties. The remaining members of the family moved to California.

West of the courthouse, on the Southwest of Section Two is the residence of Jeff Clouse. Beyond him are the homes of John Oshel and his son, Robert and family. The Robert Oshels have two boys and one girl. This was the home place of Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Holmes, who have passed away. Gertrude, Albert and Frank Holmes also have passed away. Harry (Pete) lives in Owatonna, Minnesota, where the family moved after they left Onida sometime after 1910. Vivian lives in Kansas City, and Mary in Chicago. Mr. and Mrs. Will Spencer lived here many years before they moved to California where they both

have passed away. Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Dunkelberger lived on this place, too, from 1936, until 1939, with their daughters. At present Mrs. Dunkelberger is teaching a rural school in Hughes County. Ralph was janitor at the Sully County courthouse recently. Later the family moved to East Onida and lived there from 1940 to 1943. Esther, Mrs. Allan Hale, lives in Onida in the former Lou Johnson home. She graduated from Onida High School in 1948. Edna is married, as are the other girls, and lives in Sioux Falls, Alice in Winner and Darlene in Page, Nebraska.

Mr. and Mrs. Bert Haverly lived on this place from 1939 until 1952, when they built a new home in Onida. Bert passed away in 1958. Mrs. Haverly (Grace) is now living in a trailer house near her youngest daughter, Grace, Mrs. Bill Williams, on the old Tom Doyle place in Onida. Grace graduated in 1949. Bill works at the Oahe Elevator. They have four daughters and one son. Elizabeth, Mrs. August Rupkalvis, a graduate of 1935, lives in Norfolk Township. Shirley, Mrs. Garrett Jager, of Gettysburg, has a son and a daughter, Mrs. Richard Hirtzel, of Minneapolis. Garrett works at the government "bin site". Carl graduated in 1948, and is employed by Stewart & Sons. He has four daughters. Veryl is married and has two sons and one daughter. They live at Redding, California, where he works as a mechanic. Burton graduated in 1941. He is married and has a jewelry business in Walpole, Massachusetts. Eleanor graduated in 1936. She is now Mrs. Kenneth Johnson, of Chicago, where her husband is a cabinet maker. They have two sons and a daughter. Margaret Jean graduated in 1943. She is Mrs. Walter Trask, of Chicago, where Walter works for the Miner Manufacturing and Research Organization. They have a boy and a girl. Norman graduated in 1941, and teaches mathematics and science in the Sutherland School in Chicago. He is working for his Master's degree after which he will be in line for a principalship. He is married and has two sons.

The Bird family lived here during the mid-fifties. They had two children and have had another one since they moved to Nebraska.

Mr. and Mrs. Martin McGuire were here during the mid-fifties. Martin passed

away in 1958, and Frances still lives in Onida.

The trailer homes of Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Eddy, who have two little girls, Mr. and Mrs. Ted Evans, Frank Hoffman and of Mr. and Mrs. Earl Meyers, with two little sons, are located between the Oshels and the railroad tracks.

The corner on which the Hiway Garage is located is where the Wallace Lilly family lived in the early days. In the early twenties, Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Dunlap lived there before moving to Nebraska, where Wilbur died in 1947. They had an adopted son and daughter. Mr. and Mrs. Lyle Nelson and Dwayne lived there in the thirties. Lyle is the son of Andrew Nelson, pioneer of Blaine Township, and a brother of Luther and George. The old buildings were moved away some time ago.

On the southeast corner of Section Three are the Mobil Gas Station, operated by Woody Stahl, and Klara's Hiway Cafe, operated by Klara Myers. Klara was born in Germany, and married Norman Myers of Solen, North Dakota, while he was overseas in military service and came to the United States in 1952. She has been a citizen of our country for two years. The Myers' trailer house and those of Mr. and Mrs. Loren Lambert and two children, Willard Stahl's and Charlie Danks are west of the cafe. This was the Bert Lilly place in pioneer days. Jesse Hayes, who married Florence Jordan, daughter of Mel Jordan, an early settler of Sully County, lived there in the twenties and part of the preceding decade. Jesse was county school superintendent for many years. In the early thirties the family moved to Oregon. Their four children, Melvin, Royal, Elliott and Cheryl all married in Oregon, and still live there, as does their mother. Jesse passed away a number of years ago.

The Southwest of Five was the former location of the Finch family of pioneer days. The buildings have been gone many years. Mable Finch, who married J. M. Arneson, a former superintendent of Onida schools, passed away in 1958, in Minneapolis where they had lived many years. Mr. Arneson died several years ago. Their son, John, is a lawyer.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank J. Sack have been on the Southeast of Six since June, 1946. Madeline, Mrs. John Zebroski, of Lincoln

Township, with a son and a daughter; Don, now at Travis A.F.B., in California, and Dan, presently at home, all graduated from Onida High School in 1953, 1956 and 1958, respectively. Ann graduates this spring and Frank is a junior. Leland is married, has one little daughter and is employed at Oahe Dam. Eileen, Mrs. Wilbur Hofer, lives in Onida, where her husband manages the Peavey Lumber Yard. They have two young sons. Paul married Sylvia Fritz, granddaughter of Noah Fritz, a pioneer of Blaine Township. Sylvia graduated from Onida High School in 1948. Paul is with a Construcion Company west of the Missouri. They have two sons and two daughters.

The Sack home is the former home of Aaron Robinson and family. Janet Chamberlain was married from this home. Her husband, Luther, who passed away in December, 1942, was of a pioneer Clifton Township family. Other Robinson children were Mae, Mrs. George Becker, of Pierre; Fan, Mrs. Ray Becker of Gettysburg; Zoa, Mrs. Otto Boldt, of Mliwaukee, and Glen, who graduated in 1926 from Onida High School and later from Yankton College. He married Marliss Chaffee, a niece of the former Mrs. Carmon Bates, whose husband edited the Watchman for many years. They now live in Boise, Idaho, where Glen is principal of the Junior High School. They have one son and one daughter.

Later, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Maloney lived there with their two sons and two daughters. After the death of Mrs. Maloney, Bill and the children moved away. Mr. and Mrs. Lyle Nelson lived there from 1929 until the early thirties when they moved to the Southwest of Two. In 1940, they went to their present home in Cora Township.

In the early thirties, W. H. Cottrill lived in that same house with his three children, Berneice (Mrs. Boyd Crider, of Sandpoint, Idaho), Arlene (Mrs. Lawrence Zigler, of Pierre) and Merle who married Colleen Alexander, of West Sully, and lives in Thornfield, Missouri.

Mr. and Mrs. Percy Smith and children also lived there during the early thirties before they moved to the West Coast. Mrs. Smith was a sister of Wilbur Beebe.

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Ripley and three

sons also lived on this place from about 1931, until they moved to the Northwest of Eight where they now live. Their sons all graduated from Onida High School; Ralph in 1947, Delbert in 1948, and Lawrence in 1950. Ralph attended Yankton College, taught in the eastern part of the state, married Carolyn Boroff, of Gettysburg, teaches the Norfolk School and has one son. Delbert attended a Mechanics School in North Dakota, married Lorraine Boroff, of Gettysburg, lives there, where he works for Gettysburg Motors and has one son. Lawrence married Donna Edge, of Onida, works for the Ford Garage in Onida and has one little son. Early in 1958, Ralph and his three sons and their three sons had a four generation picture taken with his mother, Mrs. Milton Ripley, a long-time resident of Okobojo Township. She died a few months later. All the boys served their time in Military Service.

Arthur (Jack) Svenson married Oma Hilton in 1938. They made their home on the Southeast of Seven where he and his brother, Harold, had lived, raising turkeys. They had one son, Alfred, who graduated from Rapid City High School in 1958. He plays violin with the "Western Cowboys" and over TV at Rapid City. They have lived at Hermosa since 1946. Ralph Ripley now owns the place.

The Northwest of Eight was the former location of Mr. and Mrs. Lou Skinner and children, Ray, Edna and Hilda (Mrs. Skinner's by a previous marriage) Ellen, Bertha and Lucy, and Nettie (Mr. Skinner's by a earlier marriage). Mr. and Mrs. Skinner, Bertha, Hilda, and Lucy all have passed away. Roy Johnson and Ellen (Mrs. Sprague) live in Wisconsin, Edna (Mrs. Everts) in Pierre and Nettie (Mrs. Currier) in Osceola, South Dakota. She has two sons in California.

Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Porter and family lived there during the early thirties, and moved to California a number of years ago. They had five children, all of whom live in California now.

Mr. and Mrs. Ed Curvo and Jim Wright lived there after Porters left, until after Ed passed away in 1939, and Mrs. Curvo and Jim moved to the Bistorius place in Clifton Township. In the forties they moved to Blunt where they lived un-

til Mrs. Curvo passed away in 1956. Jim still lives in Blunt.

On the northeast corner of Section Ten is the Conoco Station, operated by Maynard Bloom and Leslie Day. Maynard and his wife (the former Lois Day) and young son, Steve, live in a trailer house just west of the station. Lois graduated from Onida High School in 1953, Maynard in 1954 and Leslie in 1956. The west part of the station is being remodeled into a motel.

Just south of the Conoco Station is the old Heywood & Nelson house where Mr. and Mrs. Roy Everts and daughters lived during the twenties. Barney Lyons and family lived there from the thirties until they moved to Huron several years ago. The youngest daughter, Mabel, lives with her parents. All the others are married but Mary. Bonnie (Mrs. Maurice Hiett) passed away this past winter, leaving three daughters and one son. Barney lives at Bighorn, Wyoming, and Clifford, in Seattle, Washington. Mr. and Mrs. Everett Money and Eleanor, also lived here a short time.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Demery live on the southeast corner of Section Ten, with their three daughters and two sons. Mrs. Demery is the former Margaret Day who graduated from Onida High School in 1947. Bob teaches in the Fort Pierre Schools and they run the Roxy Theatre in Onida. They bought the place from Glenn Woods who had formerly run the Roxy before the family moved to Wyoming.



Mr. and Mrs. M. A. Hyde, about 1901. Early Pioneers of Onida Township.



LaVere, Connie and Charles Hyde. Three children of Mr. and Mrs. M. A. Hyde.

On the northwest corner of Section 11 is the new I.H.C. Sales & Service building recently erected by John Day. The Admiral appliances are also featured.

Mr. and Mrs. Josh Hofer and son Virgil live on the Southwest of 11. Their children all graduated from Onida High School. Pearl's first husband was killed in an airplane crash. She remarried and lives in southern South Dakota. LaVon married Myron Vetter and lives near Onida. Carol is married and lives in Colorado.

This was the C. H. Agar homestead in the eighties. Maynard Hyde, who married Jessie Agar in 1901, lived there after their marriage with the exception of the years from about 1907 until when he and C. W. Holmes ran a store in Onida. Five years after the death of his first wife, he married Zetta Brewer and they lived on the home place until 1941, when they moved to San Diego, California, and later to Melbourne, Arkansas. In 1955, they returned to Onida, where they have since resided. Maynard passed away April 17, 1959. Maynard's children are Margaret LaVere (Mrs. Joe Laughrey) graduate of Onida High School in 1920, who has two children; Charles, a graduate of 1922, married Charlotte Uecker and has five children; Orville, a graduate of 1928, married Clara Uecker and has two children; Connie married Louise Smith and has three sons and one daughter (Mrs. Joe Lamb), and Russell, who married in Minnesota, and moved back here in the early thirties and has ten children.

MEMORIES OF THE EARLY DAYS OF MY FAMILY IN SULLY COUNTY

(By Maynard A. Hyde)

1958



Maynard A. Hyde,
1932. Pioneer
of Onida Town-
ship.

D. W. Hyde. Early
Settler of Onida
Township.

Not one of the pioneers that came to Sully County to take up homesteads in 1883 are left, and just a few of us that came along as children are still here.

My father, D. W. Hyde, was a paper hanger and painter in a small town in New York State, when he got the urge to go west and get free land, a place where he could raise his children in the wide open spaces.

He barely had enough money to get to Onida and build a sod house and send for his family of wife and three children, Millard, age seven; myself, not yet four, and Blanche, age two.

When my mother started west, I remember we got as far as Chicago, where we had to change trains. As we had quite a wait, Millard decided to see the town, so he took me and started out. I do not know how far we got, but I remember being on a bridge and a policeman asking us questions and him picking me up and carrying me back to the depot. My mother was about frantic, our train had left and we had to wait for the next one.

Father had got one of the neighbors to meet us at Blunt twenty miles away, a day's trip with a team and lumber wagon. There were no telephones then, so when they got to Blunt there was no one there. The train we were to have been on was struck by a cyclone, blown off the track and a number of people injured. So all was well that ends well. Father was a little late getting to Blunt on his second try and before we got to the sod house, Alan Starks who was with father, and father

got lost and we had to stay out all night in the wagon. A Miss Wales came in on the same train that we did and as she was also coming to Onida we brought her along. When day light came, we were about one mile west of Onida. Mr. Starks surely used some language not found in the dictionary.

They did not paint or paper sod houses or tar-paper shacks, so after the first winter, father went to Minneapolis to find work as funds were getting pretty low by then. He left mother with us kids to hold down the claim. We had some time! Mother was afraid that the Indians would come and scalp us so she stayed awake most of the nights and we youngsters were afraid of coyotes and badgers. Our neighbors had to haul water for us and it would get hot and full of wigglers.

One morning the latter part of July there was a strong wind blowing from the south. About ten that morning, we noticed a small fire coming right at us! Mother corked up all the windows and hung damp sheets over the door and we were all set, as safe as could be.

But this being the first big fire, every one went wild. They appointed a Mr. Nelson to look after those that were in the path of the fire and to put out the side fires. He told mother that the house was a poor place to be with children and advised her to go about a half mile east where she would be out of the path of the head fire. And then by going another half mile east we would come to a neighbors where we would be safe.

Mother started us kids on ahead while she stayed to do a few things. My brother being four years older than I carried the baby, Lily, who was born that June in the sod house. I had my sister Blanche by the hand. By the time mother left the house, the fire had burned pretty close. She had a big pan of bread dough rising and she was taking that with her. She was subject to fainting spells and did not get fifteen rods until she fell over in a dead faint. We kids were so frightened, we were paralyzed and did not know what to do. Millard took the two sisters and started to run with them. The wind had changed and the fire was coming right at my mother. I was not yet five, but I ran back to her as fast as I could, thinking I could cover her face with my little coat. By the time I reached

her, the fire was getting hotter and the smoke was thick.

I looked up toward the fire and lo and behold here was George Newton, our neighbor, coming in a lumber wagon. He had the horses on a dead run and was whipping them with the lines. He had had several barrels of water in the wagon, the last one was just being bounced out when I saw him. He set the horses on their haunches, jumped out, told me to scramble in (which I did without delay). He was a big man weighing better than two hundred pounds and he picked mother up and rolled her into the wagon kerplunk. With the jolting of the wagon, mother soon came to. I think no one could be more scared than I was as I was sure mother would be burned alive.

Our first winter on the prairie was terrible. People were busy in the spring getting their houses and barns built and did not get started until late putting in crops, and did not get much planted at that. That winter the snow got very deep and the wind blew hard. The snow was piled up around the house until you could not see the house.

The trains could not run as they did not have good snow equipment in those days. It was twenty miles to the railroad and nothing there when one got there. No flour, no coal, no anything! About all we had that first winter was beans. I got so sick of BEANS that for fifty years I could not stand the sight of them.

One neighbor had turnips for their main diet, which must have been worse than beans. One family even boiled up hay and drank that.

There was nothing for fuel but straw and hay which was buried in snow. After shaking that out, my how it would smoke!

When the worst of the winter was over, father went to Chicago to find work. He got a job driving mules to pull the street car. He could not get enough ahead to do much with, so as soon as he could get his claim proved up and a patent on it, he mortgaged it and bought a team of mules that the Army at Ft. Sully had condemned. He used them one summer to farm with, but the crops dried up so he and the mules went to North Dakota to the harvest there.

The next spring one of the mules died. He sold the other one and rented a place on shares. For three years then he

did real well, had acquired quite a little stock, some hay and other grain.

Then on the second day of April, 1889, when we got up the wind was blowing hard. By 11 o'clock one could scarcely stand up against it. Father had fifteen acres north of the house plowed but the dust got so bad he had to quit. He took us children down cellar to cut seed potatoes. He wanted mother to come down also as he feared the house might blow over. But she did not go. About one o'clock, she came to the cellar door and called "FIRE."

That was the worst prairie fire we ever had in South Dakota. Sixteen families in Sully County lost their homes and practically every thing they had. The fire swept clear to the Iowa line.

We just got four horses out of the barn, one was a team of buckskin mustangs. Father told me to hold them while he went to see if he could get some hogs with pigs out of the pens. But he couldn't. The horses were frantic. The one I was holding by the rings in the bit with both hands, reared several times and swung me around but I held on some way. I think I was pretty scared.

My mother tried to save some bedding and other things she treasured, but the wind was so strong they would blow away before she could get them into the wagon. We ran out to a corn field away from the barn and the house.

When the fire was over everything we had in the house was gone as well as six calves, fourteen sows with little pigs, all our hay, corn, seed wheat, and potatoes.

The older cattle of the neighborhood were out on the range and did not get hurt much, just singed. Father's share of these was four yearling heifers and one bull calf.

That summer my sister Elva was born. I was nearly ten years old and got a job herding cattle and sheep at \$7.50 a month.

Every one was destitute, but quite a little relief was sent in from the east. The railroads hauled in coal free of charge, all it cost the people was \$4.00 a ton, the price at the mines.

Father rented another place on shares, with three horses and some cattle. Crops were poor that summer and wheat cheap. We didn't live very high. There was no snow until late that winter

and the cattle we had, about twenty head, stayed out on the range.

Along about November there was trouble with the Indians over on the Cheyenne Reservation where they had located across the Missouri River from us. The men did not want the women to know about this trouble. Father had been sitting up nights for about two weeks. He would read and keep watch. Mother got fed up with this behavior and insisted he should go to bed. He did, but kept getting up and going out to look around. One night about one o'clock, somebody knocked on the door. Father jumped out of bed and went out. They talked real low but when he came back mother wanted to know what in the world was the matter and he had to tell her that the Indians were on the warpath and that 2500 of them had crossed the river. Father sent me out to round up the cattle and get them into Onida. I went, but every tumbling weed that I saw looked like an Indian to me.

That next summer, I worked for an old bachelor herding 600 sheep and 30 head of cattle. He was gone most of the time and I had to do my own cooking. I was trying to break some bread that I had baked to put into some stewed tomatoes. It had gotten so dry and hard that I could not break it, so I took it in both hands and tried to break it over the hearth of the stove. I broke the hearth, and that cost me a month's wages.

This was the summer after the Indian scare. I would get the sheep corraled about dark, then I had to hunt up the cattle and yard them and milk a couple of cows and get my supper. By that time it would be 10 or 11 o'clock. I was afraid the Indians would get me so I would go out on a hill about a half mile away from the house to sleep so they would not find me. Quite an experience for an 11 year old boy!

Father had moved his family out of the sod house and they were living just west of Onida. There my brother Frank was born. Later we moved to Goodwater Township and my youngest sister, Ruth, was added to the family. We resided in Goodwater Township until my mother became ill and father moved the family into Onida, where mother passed away in 1901. I had left home before that and was living south of Onida.

Father, always a loyal booster for Dakota and Sully County, in spite of all the hardships he had endured, lived on in Onida until his death in 1935.

☆ ☆ ☆

Ellis Dunlap, nephew of M. L. French, a pioneer of Richvalley, also lived there during the time Maynard ran the store. They lived in Highmore many years after they left Onida. Ellis and one daughter, Ruth Wooley, have passed away. Mrs. Dunlap, Millie, spends some time with Royal in Texas, Ethel (Mrs. Fahlstich), in Highmore, and Dorothy (Mrs. Fahrenwald) in Aberdeen.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Kimbell and family live on the southwest corner of Section 11. One son, Ronald, graduated in 1958. John is a junior and Roy Jr. attends South Dakota School of Mines & Technology. Barbara has not yet started school. Roy is a member of the State Highway Safety Division. They recently sold their place to Earl Kinder and expect to move to Pierre.

Mr. and Mrs. James Young live on part of the Southeast of 11. They have two children, Michael and Mary. A four hole golf course has been started on the south side of their land. The buildings were built in 1919, by James Hayes (father of Mrs. H. A. Brooking). He and his wife, Rossie (niece of M. L. French) lived there until his death in 1935. She passed away in 1952. Their son, Harold, graduated from Onida High School in 1926, and from the South Dakota School of Mines & Technology. He married Carolyn Bierman, of Pierre. They have two children and live in Michigan, where Harold is employed by Commonwealth Associates. Jim Nystrom, from a pioneer family in western Sully, lived there during the late thirties. They now reside in Oxnard, California, and have six children.

Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Nelson live on the Northwest of 12 in a new modern home recently completed to take the place of the former house that burned in the fall of 1957. The old house, which had replaced a former one that was burned, had been extensively remodeled after the Nelsons and their daughter, Julie, moved there. Wayne is the son of Luther Nelson, a pioneer of Blaine Township, and graduated from Onida High School in 1911. In 1953, Julie married Jim Sutton (grandson of Ed Sutton, a long-time resident of Troy Township). She received her

diploma from Onida High School in 1954. She has a daughter and a son.

Before the Nelsons, the families of Jack Daugherty, Tom and Chas. Dalton, Charlie Byrum and Ergo Hull lived on Section 12.

Mr. and Mrs. John Crowe and their two children lived on the Southwest of 12 in the early twenties. It was at their place in the spring of 1921, that Walter Becker (brother of George Becker, formerly of Clifton Township) was overcome by gas while he was engaged in digging a well for them. Ray Shepard lost his life, too, trying to recover the body. Both bodies were recovered later in the day by Glen Smith (son of M. M. Smith, former County Road Superintendent) and another man whose name is not known now. Gas masks were used in the rescues.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Getzelman and family lived on the Northwest of 14 before the twenties and left for Illinois in the late twenties. Mrs. Getzelman and daughter, Mildred, have passed away. Two children died before they left here. The place was also occupied by the William Moore family, who later moved to Iowa. The house was moved into Onida several years ago.

John Nelson, son of Benjamin Nelson, pioneer of Pearl Township, and his wife, the former Lilly Sommers of pioneer parents, lived on the Northeast of 15. Their buildings were in a grove of trees remaining from the old Lilly tree claim. Lilly Nelson passed away a few years ago after they had moved to Pierre where John still lives.

Hollie Olson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jonas Olson, pioneers of Pearl Township, was married in 1925 to Irene Rappana, of Lead, who had been teaching in various schools in Sully County. They lived on the Northeast of 32, where Hollie had built a new home in 1924. In 1934, they moved their buildings to the Northeast of 16 after Mr. and Mrs. Hans Larson moved the house they had built there in the early thirties, into Onida in 1934. Larson's daughter, Marilyn, is now Mrs. Walter Grimes, of Pierre, where her husband is with the State Highway Department. They have one son. The Olson boys both graduated from Onida High School; Clarence in 1956 and Richard in 1958. Clarence is at present stationed in San Diego on USS Hector AR-7. Richard is working with



Mr. and Mrs. Howard R. Weischedel and their three children, Marianne, Mark and Gene.

Connie Huse of Richvalley Township, helping with his farming operations.

Mr. and Mrs. Howard R. Weischedel live on the Northeast of 18. Howard is a grandson of Jake Weischedel, pioneer of Pearl Township. His wife is the former Helen Anderson, of near Gettysburg. They have two sons and a daughter, Mark, Gene and Marianne.

The buildings on this place were first put up by Hal Howard in the twenties. His wife was Dollie Beebe, sister of Wilbur, who lived with them. He attended the West Onida School and Onida High School and now lives in Onida. The Howards moved to the West Coast many years ago.

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Spaid lived here from 1928 until 1937, when they went into Garner Township. Ralph is a grandson of Eric Spitz, a former pioneer of Hartford Township. From Garner they moved to the Cleve Garton farm near Highway 83 in Hughes County. Ernest graduated from Onida High School in 1941, married Barbara Yankee, of Walpole, Massachusetts, while he was in the service during World War II, and now lives in Hughes County where he farms west of Blunt. Bob married Marilyn Eldridge, of Fort Pierre. Since Bob was discharged from Army service, he has farmed in Hughes County near his dad. They have three sons. Eileen (Mrs. LaVern Kuhns) has a son and a daughter, still at home. LaVern works for the Haliburton Cement Company in Riverton, Wyoming.

Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Cottrill lived there after the Spaid's left, until 1949, when they moved to Onida. "Had" passed away February 14, 1959. Kathryn, his

second wife, still lives in Onida. Their son, Merle, graduated from Onida High School in 1940. He lived on the place for a while after the folks moved to town.

Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Prien put up some buildings on the Northeast of 19 in 1928, and they and their four children lived there until they moved back to Nebraska in the thirties. Since then, Mr. and Mrs. Prien have died. Virgil, Verna and Florence have married and still live in Nebraska. Kenneth is unmarried and lives in North Dakota.

Jack and Harold Svenson, Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Thompson and Marcella, Mr. and Mrs. Harley Lemon and son and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Willis Chattick, Eugene and Laurel and Mr. and Mrs. John Rieger and nine children lived on the Northeast of 19 at various times during the thirties and early forties. Mrs. Thompson, Harley and Lemoine Lemon all have died. Mrs. Lemon remarried and lives in Doland, South Dakota. Mr. Thompson is in Vancouver. Wylla Mae Lemon married Paul Duncan. They have a son and a daughter and live in Highmore.

Mr. and Mrs. Claude Blaisdell (formerly Charlotte Kitchen of Summit Township and later Mrs. Pirl Edge) and daughter, Melissa, live on the Southwest of 20. The original owner was Gilbert Burtch, a pioneer of the eighties. His first house was wrecked by winds and he rebuilt it on the south side of the quarter. After a second wrecking he located it on the east side between the north and south quarters. The Chas. Prien family lived there during the twenties, but in 1928, put up buildings on the Northeast of 19. Claude purchased that quarter after Priens left in the thirties and moved the buildings to the present location and combined the house with the old Burtch house which he had moved to the south side of the Southwest quarter. Since then he has remodeled and modernized the home. They have three daughters, Lila graduated from Onida High School in 1954, and married Newell Ludwig in 1958 after having worked at the State House following a business course in Brookings. They now live in Onida in a trailer house. Leah graduated in 1956, worked at the State House and at S.D.E.A. Headquarters in Pierre and married Darryl Gray early in 1959. They now live at Coolidge, Arizona, where Darryl works in a nearby iron



Leita Bestow (Mrs. Forrest Byrum). Two years old in 1894.

miné. Melissa is a senior at Onida High School.

Wilfred and Maxine Kitchen lived with their aunt, Mrs. Blaisdell, and attended West Onida School. Maxine married Raymond Weischedel and passed away in 1951, when her little daughter, Charlotte, was about two years old. Wilfred was in the service during World War II, married in Massachusetts, where he now lives. They have one little girl.

Mr. and Mrs. Forrest Byrum live on the Southeast of 20. Forrest is the oldest grandchild of E. E. Brooking, a pioneer of Hartford Township, and the oldest child of Coe E. and Grace Brooking Byrum, both pioneers of Hartford. Their house was the former section house at Aiken and was moved to Section 20 in 1934. Mrs. Byrum is the former Leita Bestow of Sparta, Wisconsin. She first came to Sully County in the summer of 1895, when her parents and brother, Earl, visited the Marcus L. French family in Onida. Her next appearance was when she taught one of the Hartford Schools the school year 1911-12. When her mother came out here on a visit to the R. B. Dunlap family in 1910, her "pass" was the first one to be honored on the new Chic-

ago & Northwestern line between Blunt and Gettysburg.

Forrest Byrum and family have lived on the Fagner place in Onida Township since 1924. He has farmed the Fagner land since 1921, probably a record for a renter on one farm in Sully County. They were on the Northwest of 29 from 1924 until 1932, when they moved the house to the Southeast of 20.

Their daughter, Carol, a graduate of Onida High School in the class of 1939, is now Mrs. Carl Winckler, of Pierre. She has two sons and two daughters. Her husband is manager of the Fort Pierre Farmers' Cooperative Elevator. Forrest Earl (Pete), who was first prize baby boy at South Dakota State Fair in 1930, graduated in 1947, attended South Dakota School of Mines & Technology three years. He was married to Dorothy LaFon, of Anawalt, West Virginia, when he was in the Air Force stationed in Washington, D.C. They live in Sioux Falls where Pete is a member of the I.B.M. organization. They have a daughter, Sharon Kay. John graduated from Onida High School in 1951, and from the South Dakota School of Mines & Technology in 1955. Since then he has been with the DuPont Company, in Niagara Falls, New York, Wilmington, Delaware, and at present his headquarters are in Cincinnati, Ohio.



Forrest Earl (Pete) Byrum. First prize baby boy at State Fair, 1930. Son of Mr. and Mrs. Forrest Byrum.

Mr. and Mrs. Sam Harvey and children lived on the Southwest of 21 for a short time during the twenties. The buildings were moved to the Northwest of 28 and occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Ted Evans

and Mr. and Mrs. Martin Genzler, in turn. The buildings have all been moved away.

Mr. and Mrs. M. B. Knight lived on the Northeast of 21 in the early days of Sully County. He arrived here March 13, 1883. In 1906, he was the oldest resident in Onida Township. Clarissa, now Mrs. Earl Hardwick, attended the West Onida School located one-half mile east of its present site, before they moved to Onida in March, 1910, and took over the management of the store which had been run by Maynard Hyde and Chas. Holmes. The house was destroyed by fire and the other buildings gradually took "French" leave. There are a very few trees left on the old tree claim. Clarissa graduated from Onida High School in one of the early classes.

George Pierce filed and lived on the Northwest of 22. It was there that his grandson, Robert, son of Francis Pierce, was born. Robert attended the West Onida School at the east location. It was on the Southeast of 22 that George's father, Christopher, filed. It was there in 1885, that Andrew Nelson, brother of Luther and George, dug a 104 foot well for Christopher, by hand, using a windlass to pull up the buckets of loosened dirt. Water was never reached, but about a winter's work went into the operation. In 1888, the Christopher Pierces celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.

Mr. and Mrs. George W. Case lived in Onida Township for several years. Mr. Case studied law while resting his horses in the field and at other opportune times. They were very hard up, as were most of the early pioneers, and it was not possible for him to have a formal law education. Later he was able to pass the bar examination and became a well known lawyer in South Dakota, practicing at Watertown for many years. In later years his son, Howard, was associated with him in the law practice. In 1910, when the corner stone for the Sully County courthouse was being laid, George Case was speaker for the ceremony.

Dr. and Mrs. Henry Merrick (Melissa Pierce) were also residents for a time. He was a dentist. Later a daughter and son became dentists. Mr. and Mrs. John Arnold (Laura Pierce) and Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Wilkinson (Elizabeth Pierce) and their families were also residents at one

time. Ed married Isabella Mallock, of Summit Township.

John Adams, son of Dan Adams, pioneer of Clifton Township, now lives on the Northeast of 22. The house, formerly located on the Northeast of 23 by Ed Lehman was moved and remodeled by John in 1955. The trees to be seen just north of the house are part of the old Livingstone tree claim.

Mrs. Roddewig, two sons and a daughter lived on the Northeast of 23 from 1919 until the early thirties. Charles married Leah Bandy, whose father was section foreman for the Chicago & Northwestern Company for many years, and they now live in Lincoln Township. They have two children, both married. Joe married Belva Schierholz and they moved to California many years ago. They have three daughters. Mary Jane married in Illinois and lives there now.

Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Schumacher and their four children live on the Northeast of 24. Three of the children are now in school.

This was the location of the Beckman brothers, Walter and Harry, from 1911 until 1954, at which time they and their sister, Mrs. Carrie Workman, who had lived with them several years, moved to Kansas City, Missouri. Walter passed away March 15, 1959, and Harry, a few years ago.

Mr. and Mrs. James Letellier live on the Northwest of 26. Frank Bruegel has been farming the land for several years and until this year the family lived in the house built by Ed Van Voorhis in the twenties. The Van Voorhis family moved west in the forties. He passed away a number of years ago. Mrs. Van Voorhis now lives in Colton, California, near her daughter Ila, Mrs. Henry Hull. Ila has been school health nurse for ten years. She has a daughter in college, another still in the grades and a son in the Navy at Treasure Island, California. Milton lives in Colton, and operates a filling station. Victor works for United Air Lines as a radio operator and lives in Seattle. Ila graduated from Onida High School in 1929, Milton in 1937, and Victor in 1937.

The Bruegels now live in a trailer house on the west side of Onida. Billie is in Onida Grade School, the two girls are still at home.

Bill and Herman Zeugge and their

sister, Katie, now Mrs. Henry Becker, of Summit Township, lived on the Northeast of 33 during the twenties. The house was sold in the early thirties to Forrest Byrum and moved to the Southeast of 20. Bill passed away at sea a few years ago and was buried there. Herman died sometime ago in Idaho. He married Lavina Brehe and they had two girls and one boy.

Edward Pirece, father of Elmer, Eleanor, Stanley and Marion, who still live in or near Onida, filed on the Southwest of 27 in the early days. Eleanor is now Mrs. Clifford Thompson, the present Sully County Clerk of Courts.

Mr. and Mrs. Ed Curvo lived on the Southeast of 27 in the late twenties. Mr. and Mrs. Barney Lyons and family lived there in the early thirties and Harold Svenson lived there for a time in the late thirties. Since then no one has lived there and a few years ago the buildings were moved away.

C. M. Cunningham and his son, Clayton and his wife, the former Edna Unruh of Onida, live on the Northeast of 30. Mr. and Mrs. Cunningham and their two children moved from Castlewood, South Dakota, to Onida Township in November 1922. Mrs. Cunningham passed away in 1954. Gail, now Mrs. Henry Scheele, of Minneapolis, where her husband is a wool buyer, has two daughters and two sons. Sherry, her oldest daughter, graduated from high school in 1957, and is taking nurses' training. The other children are still in the grades. Gail graduated from Onida High School in 1934, and taught school two years in the home school of 'West Onida after attending Northern State Teachers' College. Clayton attended Business College at Mankato, Minnesota. He served his time in World War II.

About 1913, John Lehman moved a former school building onto the Southeast of 32. It was this building that he moved in 1919, to the Northeast of 30.

Jake Gross, who married Lydia Kleinsasser, lived on 32 until they moved away in 1929. They had four children and now live in Minneapolis, where he is a bus driver. Section 30 had been the homestead of Joe Hunsley.

In the early twenties, after the death of the mother, the Lehman family moved into Onida. Clara was severely burned when she fell on a hot stove, and then she lived at the Durrstein home several years.

She left here with the rest of the family when they went to Colorado. She has since married and has two sons. At present she is teaching in New Mexico.

Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Chamberlain lived on Section 30 shortly before the Cunninghams moved there. They had one son, Melvin, and they moved to the West Coast several years ago.

Mr. and Mrs. Ted Allbright live on the Southwest of 31. Ted used to do some stunt horseback riding with his older sister, Rose, now Mrs. Nick Duphala, of Blunt, at some of the early Sully County Fairs.

This place is owned by O. E. Forest, who lived there with his family from the early twenties until the late thirties. In late years he has done trucking. He now lives near his daughter, Geraldine, Mrs. Carl Allbright, near Blunt. His sister keeps house for him. The Allbrights have two boys and one girl. Ralph Forest married Helen Osterkamp and lives in Pierre. They have five children. Leonard, the first husband of Helen Osterkamp, was killed during World War II. They had two children, Joyce and Roger. After O. E. Forest left the farm, Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Palmer, Mr. and Mrs. Willis Knight and children and Mr. and Mrs. Nick Duphala lived there. Hugh passed away a few years ago. Mrs. Palmer lives in Onida, the Knights in Fort Pierre and the Duphalas, near Blunt.

In March, 1906, the road fund in Onida Township amounted to about \$800.00. This money was to be used to grade some of the low places in order to make the roads passable. The township board always endeavored to keep the roads in shape for the use of the township residents. More grading was done as it was deemed necessary. The last graveling of the main roads was done in the 1950's. In 1957, it was deemed advisable by residents not dependent on the roads maintained by the township, to disorganize the township and so one of the two remaining organized townships in the county, the last remnants of true democracy of the old New England "town meeting" passed out of existence.

Early on August 14, 1888, the W. H. Brown residence was struck by lightning and totally destroyed with part of its contents and clothing. The Browns were in their cave at the time and were unaware

of the fire until it was too late to save the building.

Another fire affecting more residents was that on April 2, 1889. Sparks from the chimney of Herman Spalding of Hartford Township, when the fire was started in the stove that morning, caused the fire. Although Onida itself was in the line of fire, it was saved by the heroic efforts of the fire fighters and the freak gusts of wind. In the outlying parts of West Onida Township, home and farm buildings, livestock, machinery, tools, harness hay and stored grain were destroyed, which was a serious loss for a new country.

Rural Free Mail Delivery affecting West Onida residents was inaugurated about 1924. Maynard Knox was the first carrier and still serves Route No. 2. Albin Stahl serves the residents on Route No. 1 at the present time. A. E. Lewis was the carrier for many years, until he retired a few years ago.



West Onida School, 1944. Back row — Mrs. Robert Pierce, teacher. Middle row, left to right — Lawrence Ripley, Lila Blaisdell and John Byrum. Front row — Richard Ripley, Alfred Svenson and Leah Blaisdell.

The majority of the pupils of West Onida Rural School continued their education in Onida High School and quite a number took further work in colleges in our state or nearby states.



PEARL TOWNSHIP

Pearl Township was opened for settlement in the spring of 1883, and many settlers came to file claims on homesteads.

Frank Koch, who came to Sully County in the summer of 1883, with his son and daughter, homesteaded on a large tract of land in Pearl Township. He es-



Jonas Olson Homestead, 1900. On his Tree Claim. Mr. and Mrs. Olson and son in front of the house.

established a fruit farm and nursery in 1886, and had growing and under good cultivation nearly five acres of fruits of various varieties; three acres of strawberries, 100 apple trees and 1500 apple grafts, 50 plum trees, 500 grape, 1000 raspberry, 600 tame blackberry and 200 currant and gooseberry roots. His son-in-law, M. C. Kelly, was in partnership with him.

Jonas Olson Tree Claim

Another early settler was Jonas Olson, who came to Dakota Territory in 1883. He worked for a short time in Blunt and then sent for his wife and three children. He then filed on a homestead and tree claim in Pearl Township. Jonas and

his wife, Mary, moved on the tree claim. Mary stayed alone on the farm while Jonas worked on the railroad in Blunt. Some week ends he would walk home. Their son, Hollie, went off to war in 1918, along with other young people of the township.

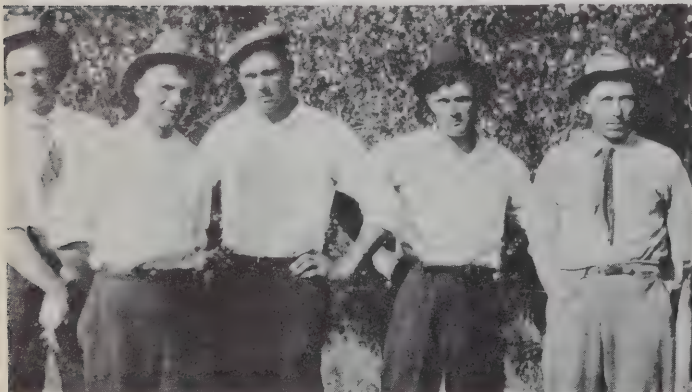


The Wilcox Family

The original Wilcox family came to the United States about 1883, from Ireland. They first located in what is now Troy Township, but soon after John Wilcox and his brother, Johnston, homesteaded in Pearl Township. They formed a partnership on their homestead which lasted until they passed away; Johnston, in 1940, and John, the following year. Another brother, William, lived in Troy Township.

Johnston Wilcox remained a bachelor all his life and lived in a sod shanty. John lived in a wooden shack which was across the road from his brother's. John married Nora Rager, who came here with her parents from Pennsylvania about 1884. John and Nora had two children, Clayton, who lives on the old homestead, and Margaret, who now lives in Salem, Oregon. Mrs. Nora Wilcox passed away at Salem in 1953.

Clayton married Gladys Ripley in 1928, and to this union three children were born, Larry, who farms with his



Six Pearl Township Young Men, 1918. Just before they left for army service. Left to right — Holly Olson, Fred Weischedel, Charles Weischedel, Bob Serbousek and Dan Weischedel.

dad; Judy, who is working in Pierre, and Mrs. Dwight Peters, who also lives in Pierre.

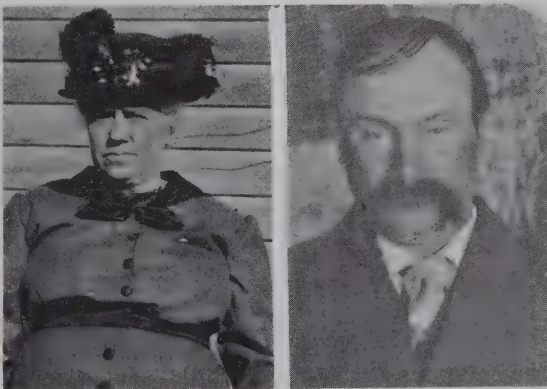


The Daniel McGuire Family

Early in the spring of 1884, Mr. and Mrs. Daniel McGuire, Sr., and five children, Daniel, Jr., Nelson, Emma (Mrs. Jake Weischedel), Belinda (Mrs. George Rozer), and Harriet (Mrs. John Lowery) arrived in Blunt, coming from Latrobe, Pennsylvania. Daniel, Jr.'s wife, the former Matilda Houston, whom he had married in Dakota Territory, also came with the family. She was the only member of her family to ever come West. She used to relate how she spent her honeymoon following her husband up and down the furrows behind a walking plow, drawn by one horse and an oxen.

The Sully County prairie was a lonesome place for a city girl, but as her family came, time on her hands was an unknown factor in her life. Daniel McGuire made a success of farming and ranching in the new country and was also a pioneer in establishing missionary churches and Sunday Schools, and worked with untiring efforts to further education in the new and growing community. He passed away in 1909, from a throat infection, and was laid to rest in the Okobojo Cemetery, along with many of his pioneer friends and relatives.

Mrs. McGuire was left with ten of her 12 children, George and William having passed away in infancy. There are now six of the children living, Margaret (Mrs. Arthur Tagg of Highmore), Miss Hattie McGuire, of Onida, Alice (Mrs. W.



Mr. and Mrs. Daniel McGuire. Pioneer Settlers of Pearl Township.

J. Asmussen of Agar), Joseph of Onida, Ted and John, in Oregon, Lena (Mrs. Leonard Haverly) and Jennie (Mrs. Arthur Rinearson). Martin and Harry have passed away.

Soon after her husband's death, Mrs. McGuire sold the farm and livestock and moved to Onida, where she made her home until her death in 1936 at the age of 79. The homestead is now owned and farmed by Harold Sloan.

Words of praise go to the Daniel McGuire family in honor of "Grandma McGuire", as she was so well known to many. Her friends and relatives soon recognized the nursing ability of this courageous woman, who acted as nurse and midwife to the people of Sully County. Her many deeds of kindness will be remembered by many in times of sickness, childbirth and the darker hours of death in the homes. Many hundreds of mothers and babies were given care, as were older people, and several orphaned children were given a home in time of need. The tender sympathy was born in her heart, and made her a mother and friend to be cherished and remembered and a heritage to be thankful for. There are 17 grandchildren, 31 great grandchildren and 11 great great grandchildren.



It was reported that Henry Esselbrugge was one of the heaviest taxpayers in Sully County, contributing annually nearly \$500.00 to the county treasurer. He was the owner of an extensive ranch in Pearl Township. His ranch is now owned by Kent McSpadden, of Texas.



The Weischedel Family

Charlie, Jake (J. G.) and George Weischedel came to Sully County in 1883, and settled on homesteads in Pearl Township. At first they lived in a dugout. Charlie traded his claim for a bicycle, but the other two kept claims. Jake and George homesteaded on adjoining quarters and built a house on the joining line where they both lived.

Jake Weischedel married Emma McGuire and they lived in a dugout for a time. He was the country blacksmith and carpenter by trade. In later years, they bought lumber from Old Fort Sully and built a house which is now occupied by

their son, Howard, who purchased the home place in 1946. The farm has been



J. G. Weischedel, 1881. Pioneer of Pearl Township.

in the family for 76 years. Charles lives on the place in a house of his own.

Jake and Emma Weischedel had 12 children. Frank married Gertie Buck and they had four children. Gertie passed away when the children were small and in later years, Frank married Nellie Taylor and there were five more children. Fannie married Alex Brehe and seven children were born to them. Dan and Charlie never married, but gave their time in the service to their country. Fred married Mary Mikkelsen and they had seven children. They own and farm the Henry Evensmyre homestead. Stella married Gus Brehe and lived in Farmington Township. Minnie married Clarence Curried and four children were born to them. Howard married Olive West and they have two children. Molly, a twin sister to Howard, married Emil Flood and they had five girls. Bill married Lizzie Mikkelsen and they had four children. Ralph married Maggie Wilcox and they have one child. Ruth, a twin sister to Ralph, married Wesley Basil and two daughters were born to them.

The George F. Weischedel homestead is also owned by Howard, there being no buildings left. The land is used for pasturing.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Jake Weischedel passed away; Emma, in 1931, and Jake, in 1945, at the age of 84. Three of their daughters and three sons have also passed on, leaving two sons, still living about one and a half miles from the old homestead.



George Weischedel Homestead, 1907. Mr. and Mrs. Weischedel in their flower garden.



J. G. Weischedel, 1940. Displaying canes and violins which he made.

Fred Weischedel's son, Jake, resides on the old Ed Dexheimer place where the township well was put down in 1900.

Bill Weischedel owns the Emmanuel Leonard place and he lives on what used to be the Gus Petterson farm.



Perry Swenson Homestead

An early day landmark of Pearl Township was the Perry Swenson stock and grain farm, homesteaded in 1887. Traces of the old stage coach road between Pierre and points north are still to be found bordering the east edge of the original homestead quarter now occupied by his son, Clinton, wife and two sons. The farm has now been in the family for 72 years.

Perry lived in a dugout the first years and, upon abandonment and dismantling of Fort Sully, he hauled building materials from the fort and erected a frame home, ably assisted by Fred Ramshall, another early day settler and Swedish immigrant.

Perry's closest neighbor was Fred Nystrom, who lived in another dugout about half a mile north.

Around 1900, Perry married Carrie Osborne, of Potter County. Of the four

children in the family, the three daughters became schoolteachers. Elsie, of Bakersfield, California, and Anna Dunkelberger, of Page, Nebraska, are still teaching. Jennie Samuelson married a rancher from Stanley County and they now live in Fort Pierre.

Perry's love for growing things became evident after many trips to the river with team and wagon to bring back trees and shrubs for transplanting, until his farmstead was one of the show places of the county. Two cedar trees of the original planting still stand. Drought of the thirties killed most of the trees, and since that time Clinton has replanted many more.

Perry passed away in 1935 and his wife, Carrie, in 1933.



The Serbousek Family

Joseph Serbousek and wife, Thresa, an immigrant from Czechoslovakia, settled in Pearl Township in 1906, coming here from Iowa. They purchased land from Schlitzoch & Nelson Realators, and erected a set of farm buildings including an all oak granary. Their two oldest sons, Joe, Jr., and Bill (William A.) lived there the first winter in a 10x14 foot shack before the house was built. Joe remembers it was like living in a barn, and early that spring, he recalls meeting his parents and brothers and sisters in Pierre and driving them home in a triple box wagon through a blinding snowstorm. There were 15 children in the family. Frank, of Onida; Tillie Pitlick, of Pierre; Joe, Bill and Lumer, of Pierre; Josie Novy, of Flandreau, South Dakota; Otto, of California; Emil, an army man in Kentucky; and Henry, George, Leonard and Robert, all deceased.

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Serbousek retired in 1929, and moved to Onida. Both have passed away.

Frank lived in a header box, covered with canvas, while building their first home.

In 1909, Joe married Ella Pitlick, who came to Sully County in 1905. They settled on the Southeast of 29 where they built up a fine set of farm buildings and where they still make their home. Three children were born to them; Lawrence, who passed away while still a young man; Eva Marie (Mrs. Sig Severson), of Onida,

and Charles, who lives on the home place and assists his father with the farm and ranch operations. Ella recalls boarding 20 different teachers in her life time, beginning while living in a two-room shack. She also cared for Fred Ramshall, an old Swedish bachelor, for three years before his death.

Bill (William A.) Serbousek lived with his parents until 1914, when he married Elizabeth Pashaw, of Highmore, South Dakota. They lived in Hartford Township for four years and then moved back to his father's farm when his parents decided to retire. Bill and his family lived in Pearl Township for five years and then purchased their own land in Fairbank Township in Section 24, known as the Pete Clarken place.

Four children were born to Bill and Elizabeth. Agnes, is married to William J. Dalerden and lives in Owatonna, Minnesota; Bernice, married Elmer Lambrecht and lives in New Prague, Minnesota; Catherine, married Lowell West in 1948, and lives on the Jens Jensen farm in Pearl Township, and William E., who married Ruth Weiss, of Pierre, in 1949, lives on the old Joseph Serbousek homestead.

The William A. Serbouseks made many improvements on their ranch and since 1952, have enjoyed electrical power



William A. Serbousek Family, 1940.

from REA, and more recently have installed a telephone.

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The J. A. Buck homestead is now owned by Mrs. John Neuman. Her father, Chester Bramblette, a settler of 1924, gave the farm to her at the time of his death.

The Adele Nelson place, which at one time was rented by Emil Flood, is now owned by John Day, of Onida.



Pearl School, 1900. Back row, left to right — Maggie Tagg, Stella Brehe, Frank Weischedel, Martin McGuire, Charles and Dan Weischedel. Front row — Hattie McGuire, Gertrude Buck, Jenney McGuire, Minnie Weischedel, Lena McGuire, Edith Blackmore, teacher, with Joe McGuire on her lap, Bessie Buck, Fred Weischedel and John McGuire. Sitting — Harry McGuire and Howard Weischedel.

The W. L. Blundin homestead is now owned by Lowell West, a son of Fred West. He came to Grandview Township in 1912. The farm has been improved with new buildings and a seven room house.

At one time Pearl Township had three schoolhouses, but at present there is only one. Miss Maxine McGruder has been the teacher for the past three years. Those on the schoolboard are Mrs. Clinton Swenson, Charles Serbousek and Lowell West.

Roads have been improved throughout the township and in 1952, the Central Electric Cooperative Association installed lines through the township which gave everyone all the electricity they wanted. And in 1956, the old telephone line that came from Okobojo was torn down and a new line put up, coming from Onida. It is called Sully-Buttes Telephone Cooperative, Inc., with headquarters at Highmore, South Dakota.

Pearl Township was disorganized in March, 1958, the last township in Sully County to disband under the old system. Those who were on the township board for many years were Charles Weischedel, Clayton Wilcox, Bill Weischedel, Charles Serbousek and Clinton Swenson.



PLEASANT TOWNSHIP

The first settlement made in Pleasant Township was in the spring of 1883, when T. O. Keeland erected the first buildings. However, most of the first settlers arrived in 1884. Some of the early pioneers were Mrs. F. B. Snell, O. T. Strand, Jacob Seward, W. S. Haynes, Frank Aldrich, J. A. French and others.

The first schoolhouse was built in 1885, with Miss Sarah Seward as one of the first teachers. This schoolhouse was vacant for a number of years until it was needed for the Snell children. The Pleasant School was open in 1937, when Vernie Montieth was the teacher.

George Fanger came to South Dakota with his parents when a small boy and the family settled near Wolsey. When George became a young man, he and a brother, Walter, farmed near Holabird, South Dakota. Walter married in 1928, and the following year he and his wife and George moved to Sully County and settled on what was known as the E. J.



Vernie Montieth. Teacher at Pleasant School, 1937.

Quirk place. The two brothers were in partnership. In 1930, George married Josephine Burger, daughter of homesteaders south of Harrold, South Dakota. They moved to the Tom Strand farm in Pleasant Township and it was then that the



A Social Group of Ladies. Back row, left to right — Mrs. McGinnis, Mrs. Emery Hinkle, Mrs. C. C. Bayne, Mrs. Leo Hayes, Mrs. Art Lehrkamp, Mrs. Ann Duncan, Mrs. C. C. Bayne. Front row — Mrs. Walter Fanger, Bernice Lemon, Mrs. Hansen, Mrs. George Fanger and Lida Jones.

two brothers dissolved partnership. George and Josephine had five children.

On July 14, 1938, the George Fanger house burned and in the spring of the following year, they moved to the Lawrence Osterkamp farm in Lincoln Township. They purchased the farm in 1943. Their oldest son, Joseph, is married and has three boys and farms in Sully County. The three Fanger daughters are married and have families. The youngest son, Earl, is not married.

Mr. and Mrs. Harley Lemon lived on the Seward homestead where many of the social activities were held. The William Meyers family also lived on the Seward place at one time.



Mr. and Mrs. Harley Lemon, 1937. Residents of Pleasant Township.

One of the social organizations of the township was the Community Club which included a group of ladies living in the area.



RICHVALLEY TOWNSHIP

While Indian bands were still loping their spirited ponies across the rolling South Dakota prairies, pioneers were pushing westward and taking up homesteads on the fertile lands that gave promise of good farming and excellent ranching. By 1883, such stalwart and energetic pioneers as Pete Anderson, Henry Probst and George McLaughlin were pushing west and north to find the desired spot to settle down and work out a

living from the soil. As they reached the southern border of what now makes up Richvalley Township, they looked down on a fertile valley of waving grass that sloped down gently to a small lakebed at the bottom where great flocks of waterfowl were giving forth with their joyful calls. It was an appealing sight for any settler. Hardly could a more appropriate name been given than Richvalley. They moved in and took up their homesteads on these rich acres of prairie that held such latent wealth. Here they could till the rich black earth, and under the blessing of God could expect an abundant harvest.

However, those early settlers, along with others who continued to come in, experienced the rigors and difficulties of all pioneers who seek to open up a new country to civilization. Droughts came, crops were poor, prices were low, which made for much hard work and frugal living. Pete Anderson went into raising potatoes, putting in as much as eighty acres of this crop. He received the nickname of "Potato Pete." He built a large underground cellar to store the potatoes, and then as the market permitted he sold or traded them for other necessities of life. He even took a wheelbarrow loaded with potatoes and pushed it to Blunt in exchange for groceries.

With this caliber of men and women making up the settlers of Richvalley Township, there came continued progress. More and more of the lush, waving grassland was being broken up as many ambitious settlers moved in with an eye for farming. In the early 1920's, the winding trail roads, which many times headed out across country and were so confusing to strangers, were giving way to graded roads that followed the section lines. The farming that had been carried on by big, sleek workhorses and the old-time machinery was gradually giving way in the late 1920's and early 30's to the faster and more effective means of tractor power. This made possible the farming of much larger tracts of land by each operator. During the depression, drought and dust storm years of the 1930's, quite a number of families were forced to move out. This left vacant buildings. The land was later purchased by other farmers in Richvalley with the buildings being moved away or torn down and the many acres of farm-

land being added to the ever increasing one-man acreages of the machine age.

The elementary education of the farm boys and girls was a vital part of pioneer life. Three schoolhouses were situated in convenient locations throughout the district. For many years these were known as the Rivenes, Schriever and Vetter Schools. During the earlier days these schools were quite well attended, but with families moving away and a lull in generations, both the Schriever and Vetter Schools were closed. This shifted the children of the township to the Rivenes School, which became known as the Richvalley School. This schoolhouse in 1957-58 was redecorated and completely modernized. In the fall of 1958, ten children were enrolled with the prospects of a continued rise with 30 children of elementary school age and younger in the township. Mrs. Vernon Brandt, of Agar, has been the teacher for the two years 1957-58. An efficient schoolboard has always added its faithful part to the progress of the school system. The board members in 1958 were John Heasley, Conrad Huse and Clarence Shoup.

The many hours spent in hard work didn't keep these farm families from enjoying the gay social times together. Sur-

prise parties were organized once a month to shift from home to home in the community. While the older folk spent the evening visiting, the children and young folk enjoyed the gay frolic of sparkling party games. Later years found many of the folk attending card parties and dances in some of the homes. The new barn that was erected on the Mike Rivenes farm was the scene of several barn dances. A baseball team was organized by the young men of the community. They played many well-fought and enthusiastic games on a fine regulation ball diamond that was situated on the Ernest Shoup farm.

Richvalley Social Club

In 1916, the ladies of Richvalley organized what they called "The Ladies Aid." They met once a month, on the first Thursday, and worked as a group for the welfare of the community, as well as a social group. When the need for Red Cross workers became evident during World War I, the name of the organization was changed to "Richvalley Branch of the Sully County Chapter of the American Red Cross" at a meeting held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Monroe Shoup on February 7, 1918. Mrs. Andrew Spencer acted as president pro tem. The following officers were elected at this meeting: Mrs. T. E. Conklin, chairman; Mrs. Andrew Spencer, assistant chairman; Mrs. Willard



Richvalley Social Club, 1956. Taken in Pierre Park. Standing, left to right — Mrs. Marion Pierce, Mrs. Maude Culp, Mrs. Willard Hines, Mrs. George Sorenson, Mrs. Mike Lange, Mrs. Bert Clouse, Mrs. Carmel Larson, Mrs. Emelia Rivenes, Mrs. Jacob Mosiman, Mrs. Gus Westphal and Mrs. Anna Shoup. Seated — Mrs. Pat Kane, Mrs. Lawrence Venner, Mrs. Donald Tennant and Mrs. Bill Fischer. Members not pictured were Mrs. Leon Tennant, Mrs. Clarence Shoup, Mrs. Lloyd Clark, Mrs. Ray Vader and Mrs. C. R. Garner.



Richvalley Sunshine Sunday School, about 1925. Back row, left to right — Noah Fritz, Mrs. Chester Scott, Mrs. Alex Peterson, Mode Shoup, unknown, Mrs. Noah Fritz, Wallace Fritz, Bert Shoup, Raymond Cairns, Charles Probst, unknown, Mr. and Mrs. William Vetter, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Heuer and George Wolforth. Front row — Elsie Shoup, Dorothy and Vivian Peterson, Mrs. Elva Probst, Mrs. Emma Conklin, Gladys Crosby, Elsie Fritz, Edna Shoup, Mrs. Mode Shoup and Clarence Shoup. Children pictured are members of these families.

Hines, treasurer, and Mrs. Hugh Parman, secretary.

All the ladies learned to knit and made many sweaters, quilts and layettes which were sent overseas.

Again, in 1927, the name of the organization was changed to "Richvalley Social Club," with many of the charter members still active.

The following is a list of charter members, as nearly correct as was possible to obtain, as the original records were destroyed in a fire: Mrs. T. E. Conklin, Mrs. Alex Peterson, Mrs. Fred Kuhns, Mrs. Mike Lange, Mrs. Jake Mosiman, Mrs. Lloyd Clark, Mrs. Emelia Rivenes, Mrs. Gus Westphal, Mrs. E. R. Shoup, Mrs. Mode Shoup, Mrs. Ray Vader, Mrs. Willard Hines, Mrs. Tom Dwyer, Mrs. Clara Crosby, Mrs. Robert Burlingmire, Alva Conklin, Mrs. William Vetter, Mrs. Don Campbell, Mrs. Lena Clouse, Mrs. Velma Swenson and Mrs. Mildred Tennant.

Richvalley Sunshine Sunday School

Many of the early pioneers had a strong desire for religious worship. Since churches were few, Sunday School and church services were conducted in various schoolhouses in the township. In the

spring of 1904, Mrs. M. B. Dunlap organized a Sunday School in what was then the Schriever schoolhouse and was superintendent for several years. Previous to that time Noah Fritz was superintendent during the very early days. Among the many superintendents were Mrs. Mary Scotland, William Vetter, who was followed by Ben Klingbeil. There were very many who were very faithful in coming, and often times there were 60 in attendance. Often a visiting minister from the Agar Methodist Church, along with others, conducted worship services as a spiritual addition to the Sunday School. From the early 1920's until 1947, these services were conducted in the Richvalley Schoolhouse. This type of worship continued from the homestead days until 1947, when the building of more churches and easier means of transportation made it possible to travel farther and attend the church of each one's choice.

There has been a continued advance of improvements throughout the community. Many new buildings have been built to add their prosperous effect to the farms. Through a well-planned program by the Federal Government, tree planting became a special project on many farms, and by 1958, large groves and shelter-

belts were beginning to put a protective wall of green around many of the farm buildings. Up to 1950, electricity was only provided by the farmers' own private generating plants, but in 1950, the Rural Electric Association made electricity available to the farms on an efficient, economical basis. Most of the farms had telephone service through the Bell System by 1956, but in that year the Rural Telephone Association completed the project of making telephones available to all the farms.

By 1956, there were almost a score of farm families living in Richvalley Township, with over half the farms being in the same family for more than 30 years. Some of the farmsteads that once graced the countryside during the earlier years disappeared, with the William Schriever farm vanishing in 1958.

Mr. and Mrs. William Schriever came to Richvalley Township shortly after 1890. In 1902, they purchased the H. B. Turk farm, who then moved to the state of Washington. The Schrievers retired in the spring of 1946, and moved to Onida, where Mr. Schriever passed away in 1948. Mrs. Schriever still makes her home

there. Carl Minder purchased the Schriever farm in 1952, using the land for farming and pasturing purposes, the buildings being disposed of. The Schrievers had one son and four daughters. Albert is residing in Aberdeen; Mrs. Anna Dillon is in Fort Pierre; Mrs. Hilmer Yeager (Elizabeth); Mrs. Dorothy Lewton lives in Altus, Oklahoma, and Mrs. Elsie Tunnell passed away in August, 1952.

One of the oldest farms is the one now owned by Wilson Heasley. This was originally homesteaded by George McLaughlin. In 1916, he sold it to John B. Dirks. His daughter, Helen, was married to Wilson Heasley in 1919, and upon the death of her parents, she and her husband inherited the farm. It was in World War I that Wilson Heasley served ten months overseas. Since then, he and his wife have been busily engaged in farming. After their son, John, was married to Doramae Peery, of Eugene, Oregon, they built a new house for themselves a short distance south of the home place, while John and his family live on the original homestead. They have two daughters, Judy and Janet, who attend the Richvalley School.



Sod house on George McLaughlin Homestead. Richvalley Township.



Neils P. (Potato Pete) Anderson Homestead. Mr. and Mrs. Anderson and Grandson, William J. (Bill) Asmussen.

Mr. and Mrs. Neils P. Anderson were one of the first homesteaders in Richvalley Township. Neils, or "Potato Pete" as he was called, was an ardent gardener and one of Sully County's best farmers. He devoted a great deal of his time to potato culture, from which he received his nickname. He also was a well digger and had many hazardous experiences. The first writing desk brought into South Dakota, was claimed by Mr. Anderson. This desk was unloaded at Old Fort Sully in 1864. It was a heavy, black walnut desk of quaint design and remained in the office of the Fort Commandant until the late twenties, when Mr. Anderson secured

it at auction. The desk was offered to the county as part of its collection of antiques. The Andersons had two daughters, Hannah and Laura. Hannah married Christian Asmussen, of Richvalley Township, in 1894. She passed away shortly after the birth of their son, William J., who was reared by his maternal grandparents. Laura married Carl Falkenhagen. About 1900, Chris Anderson sold his land and moved to Carstairs, Alberta, Canada, where he remarried and lived for about 40 years. He passed away in 1940.

The homestead of Pete Anderson was sold to William Vetter in 1916. A real selling point was a shallow well 16 feet deep that Mr. Anderson had dug by hand. He was so sure of it giving an ample supply of water that he staked the giving a quarter section of land if it went dry. Mr. and Mrs. Vetter have lived on this place since purchasing it. They have four children. A son, Ben, passed away in December, 1925. David is with his folks on the home place. Helen, who in World War II served as an army nurse in the Philippine Islands and Japan, caught a vision then of missionary work in other parts of the world. She is now serving her second four-year term as a missionary under the Sudan Interior Mission in Nigeria, Africa. Herbert, who married Arlene Roddewig in 1947, lives at Isabel, South Dakota, where he is pastor of the Baptist Church. And Myron, who married LaVon Hofer in 1955, lives in a new house on the home



Early Pioneers of Richvalley Township. Mr. and Mrs. Anderson and daughters Hannah, left, and Laura.



Christian Asmussen. Pioneer of Richvalley Township and father of W. J. (Bill) Asmussen.

place and farms in partnership with his father. They have one boy, Danny, who is a year and a half old.

Mr. and Mrs. Madison Haverly and family settled in Richvalley Township after taking out a claim in Blaine Township near the Blaine School where they lived six years. The family had come from the state of Iowa on May 31, 1884. Mr. Haverly made improvements on his farm and raised sheep and cattle. He was county commissioner until he passed away on May 20, 1903. His son, Minor, was appointed and then elected to fill his vacancy, which he held until he moved out of the district.

Louisa Haverly married Walter Spencer in 1899, and they are presently living in Santa Ana, California. Elizabeth married Otis French and lived in Onida where they had a store for many years. They finally moved to Tacoma, Washington, where they passed away. Minor married Bertha Adams, of Clifton Township on May 24, 1906, and lived on the home place until 1910. They moved to Onida in 1910, and purchased a half interest in the Frank Johnson Hardware Store and built the garage building south of the hotel where they had the Ford Garage for many years. Minor passed away in Onida in April of 1934. Manley married Myrtle Neuhauser, of Pierre. They moved to Tacoma, Washington, where they now live. Bert married Grace Dunlap on March 25, 1914, and they lived in Onida all their lives until he passed away in May, 1958. They had two children, Grace and Carl. Grace married W. T. Williams. They have



Early Day Social Gathering Richvalley Township. Back row, left to right — George Wolforth, William Vetter, unknown, Ray Carnes, Alex Peterson, Mike Lange, Mrs. Lange, Mrs. Vetter and Mrs. Peterson. Front row — David and Ben Vetter, Vivian Peterson, Helen Vetter and Dorothy Peterson.



Madison Haverly Family, about 1892. Richvalley Pioneers. Back row, left to right — Louise Minor and Elizabeth. Front row — Manley, Mrs. Haverly holding Lissa, Leonard, Mrs. Haverly and Bert.

five children, JoAnn, Jeanne, Michael, Janet and Peggy Lee. Carl married Phyllis Wakefield, of Chicago. They have four daughters, Cheryl, Dawn, Janis and Penelope. Both families live in Onida. Leonard moved to Tacoma, and has since passed away. Lissa, the youngest, married Cliff Howard and moved to Medford, Oregon.

Henry Probst was a prosperous farmer in Richvalley Township who owned 800 acres that he would not consider selling for \$16.00 per acre by 1903. He annually sold more butter and eggs than was required to keep up the expense on the farm.

Irvin Scott and his oldest son, Walter, came to Sully County from Washington County, Iowa, in the spring of 1906, and purchased a farm in Richvalley Township. Mrs. Scott and five of their children came in the spring of 1908 to make their home. Four of the younger children attended the Pete Anderson School. Another son, Chester and his family, came in 1915, and rented the Beck farm until his father passed away in 1917. Chester then took over the management of his father's farm for about two years and then returned to their original home in Iowa. Soon after, Mrs. Scott and daughter, Gladys, also returned to Iowa. Saloma married Hugh Pal-

mer in 1915, and settled in Morton Township. Velma married Monroe Shoup in April of 1917, and lived on the old Matt (Madison) Haverly farm until the spring of 1918, when they moved to the Henry Probst place for one year and then pur-



Mr. and Mrs. William Vetter. And sons, Ben, and David.



Henry Probst Farmstead, about 1890. Richvalley Township.

chased the old Dr. Kendall homestead in Fairview Township. Edna attended God's Bible School in Cincinnati, Ohio, for four years. In late years, she married John Kenyon and they live in Ashburo, North Carolina. Cyrus passed away in 1913.

Mike Lange and his wife moved from Indiana to Richvalley Township in 1906. After living on several farms, they bought the Matt Haverly farm from Johnson & Spears in March, 1919. Here in the years that followed, they built a large new house and barn that added much to the appearance of the farm and community. They lived on this place until 1955, when they bought the Lee Rappana house and moved into Onida. They have one daughter, Louella, who is married to William Ruckle, the postmaster of Onida.

After Mike Lange retired and moved to Onida, he sold the farm, in 1957, to Albert C. Lomheim. Mr. Lomheim, a young man of Sully County, was married in 1947 to Shirley Balster of Gann Valley, South Dakota. They have two sons, Michael and Steven, with the oldest a first grader at the Richvalley School. A farm improvement made by Albert in 1958 was a big steel granary in which to store his bumper crop of grain.

The homestead of Dick Rawling was sold to Ernest Shoup in 1903. Some years later he and his wife added to this farm the fine improvements of a large new house. They have seven children who all live in Sully County. They are all farmers, with the exception of Ralph who is a mechanic at the Lamb Garage. Their chil-



Irvin Scott Homestead, 1909. Richvalley Township. Scott family in foreground.



Mr. and Mrs. Mike Lange and Daughter, Louella, 1916. Pioneer residents of Richvalley Township.

dren are: Edna (Mrs. George Wolforth), Elsie (Mrs. Lloyd Clark), Florence (Mrs. Lester Wagner), and Clarence, Ralph, Ben and Francis. After Ernest Shoup's death in 1941, Mrs. Shoup continued to live on the home place.

Clarence Shoup, who in 1943 married Margaret Uphoff, of Appleton, Minnesota, lives on and farms the home place. They have two children, Kenneth and Audrey, who are enrolled at the Richvalley School.

In 1919, Mike Rivenes moved with his family from Colton, South Dakota, to Richvalley Township, where they bought the Henry Probst homestead from Mike Lange. A short time later they built one of the first ready-cut houses in this community. It was in 1936 that Mike Rivenes and his wife moved to Onida, where Mrs.

Rivenes continues to reside since her husband's death. Four of their children, Ethel (Mrs. Vern Palmer), Sam, Orville and Marvin, live in Sully County. Agnes (Mrs. Clete Doherty), Elroy and Alfred live in Rapid City, South Dakota. Marcella (Mrs. Harry Jones) lives in Ravenswood, West Virginia, Mildred (Mrs. Orville McNeil) in Los Gatos, California, Melvin in Butte, Montana, and Ronald in Mitchell, South Dakota.

Elroy Rivenes purchased and still owns the Rivenes' home place. He and his family moved from the farm to Rapid City, South Dakota, in 1952, where they now reside. Their daughter, Edina, is now Mrs. Herbert Rudd and lives in Pierre.

Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Heien moved on the Elroy Rivenes farm in 1952. They are



Mr. and Mrs. Mike Lange and Joan Nystrom. Lange Home in Onida.



Ernest Shoup Farm, 1909. Richvalley Township. Mrs. Shoup and daughter in foreground.



Mark Dunlap Farm, 1908. Richvalley Township. Left to right — Grace (Dunlap) Haverly, Blaine, Wilbur in buggy, Roy Williams, who made his home with the Dunlaps for three years, Una, Mrs. Dunlap and Mr. Dunlap holding Baby Thema.

both Sully County folk, with Alvin having served in World War II. They have two children, Janice and Wayne, with the daughter enrolled at the Richvalley School. Mrs. Rachel McCamly, Mrs. Heien's mother, makes her home with them.

S. G. Rivenes is on the Minor Haverly farm, where he has made his home and farmed since 1944.

It was in 1926 that Christina Huse and family moved from Colton, South Dakota, to purchase the Phil Probst farm and establish their home in Richvalley. Their two sons, Conrad and Kenneth, who are both veterans of World War II, are farmers in Sully County, with Conrad and his family living in Richvalley, and Kenneth and his family in Onida. Their daughter, Dorothy, is married to Howard Miller and lives at Merville, Iowa. After the death of Christian Huse in 1949, Mrs. Huse also moved to Merville, Iowa, to be near her daughter.

In 1942, Conrad Huse, while stationed in the military service in Florida, was married to Musette Little, of Watertown, South Dakota. They moved on the home place of his parents in 1949. They have three daughters, Diane, Peggy and Tami, with Diane enrolled as a first grader at the Richvalley School. Conrad, who cannot stand an idle moment, has established a well-known television repair service in his farm shop that he carries on as

an avocation along with his many acres of farming.

Mr. and Mrs. Mark Dunlap came here from the state of Wisconsin in 1903, with their four children, Blaine, Grace, Wilbur and Una. In 1908, another daughter, Thema, came to gladden the Dunlap home. They settled on the old Alysos Frank homestead and started building the granary, barn and their house in the spring of 1904. The well was the only improvement on the land when the Dunlap family came. Pete Anderson had dug this 180 foot well by hand for the Frank family. It had to be cleaned out by a well rig.



Mark Dunlaps living in their cook shanty, 1910, while breaking sod. Mr. and Mrs. Dunlap and daughter, Thema.

The water was very bitter and could only be used for stock. Water for household purposes was hauled from another well and put in a cistern close to the house. In 1915, the family moved to Onida. Mrs. Bert Haverly (Grace) is the only member of the family living.

In 1932, Donald Tennant of Potter County and his family established their home on the Mark Dunlap farm, living there until 1955, when they moved to Onida. They have five children. Darlene (Mrs. Clifford Carter) lives on the home place. Dorothy (Mrs. Tom Vincent) resides in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. And Helen (Mrs. Muryl Paxton), Edna (Mrs. Kenneth Brunmeier) and Leon all live in Sully County.

Clifford Carter, who married Darlene Tennant of Richvalley in 1950, moved on the Donald Tennant farm in 1955. He is a veteran of World War II. They have four children, James, Carol, Linda and Wanda, with James and Carol enrolled as students at the Richvalley School.

Corydon Ludwig and his family, in 1942, moved from the Lister farm in Blaine Township to purchase the Judge Roberts farm in Richvalley. This place had been started by Jake Goosen in 1919. Mr. and Mrs. Ludwig have three daughters. Beverly (Mrs. Phil Zebroski) lives in Sully County and Betty (Mrs. Pierre Barnes)

lives near Blunt. Bernice (Mrs. Larry Kiel) is living in a trailer house on her parents' farm, where her husband assists Corydon Ludwig with the farming operations.



Edwin Fanton, Jr. **May Fanton (Mrs. H. A. Bolinger).**
Five years old.

School teacher, milliner, and dressmaker before her marriage.

The Edwin F. Fanton family moved from Omaha, Nebraska, to Sully County on April 1, 1900, coming here to work for his uncle, C. D. Fanton. In 1902, he filed on the homestead and lived there for 15 years. They raised a family of four children on the farm, May (Mrs. H. A. Bolinger), John Edward, Elmer J. and Edwin, Jr. The three brothers served in World War I, Elmer having died in the Service with burial at Carthage where his wife resided. May Fanton taught school for a number of years in Sully County. She was also a milliner and dressmaker before her marriage. Edwin, Jr. worked in the Johnson-Haverly Hardware and was school janitor for the Onida City School at one time, later being employed for seven years at the City Light Plant.

E. F. Fanton served on the Richvalley school board for a number of years. He was county commissioner from his district at the time the new Courthouse was built in 1911. The Fantons moved to Onida in the spring of 1917, after the farm was sold to John Stormant. The Fantons bought a house and lived in it for a few years, which was later occupied by the Chas. Prien family, the Rev. Jesse P. Williamsons as a parsonage and Mrs. Effie Cass and son, J. W., Jr. The present owners are Mr. and Mrs. Reuben Niehoff and family, who have remodeled and modernized the house.



Mr. and Mrs. Edwin F. Fanton, 1916. Early Settlers of Richvalley Township.

Mr. Fanton built a new home a block off south main street and lived there until his death in 1946, the house being sold to the Mennonite Church people for a parsonage, after Mr. Fanton's death. Mrs. Fanton passed away in 1933, and both Mr. and Mrs. Fanton are buried in the Onida Cemetery.

John and Edwin farmed for a number of years and worked at the plumbing trade in Onida and at other jobs. John never married, and during the last few years of his life he spent considerable time in veteran's hospitals for operations and treatment, passing away in the Veterans Hospital at Sioux Falls with burial on the 11th of November, 1957, in the Onida Cemetery.

Edwin, Jr. and Marie Roach were married and had two daughters, Doris Jean (Mrs. John Galbraith) of San Mateo, California, who has two sons, John and Jeff. Helen May (Mrs. James L. Sheldon) of Medford, Oregon, with a son, James, and two daughters, Susan Jo and Jean Marie.

The Fantons moved to Salem, Oregon, in 1936, where the girls finished their education. Edwin was employed in the Bremerton Navy Yards during World War II for four and one half years. He returned to Onida following his father's death, and has made his home here, working at the carpenter trade and is presently manager of the Onida Municipal Liquor Store.

It was in the year 1924, that Jacob Mosiman and his family moved to Richvalley. In 1929, he purchased the Edwin Fanton farm and established the present home place. They lived there until 1946, when they moved to Onida. They have one daughter and two sons, both the boys being veterans of World War II. Ella (Mrs. Paul Dietrich) lives in Humboldt, Kansas. Alfred and his family live in Onida where he owns and manages the Onida Hotel. And Elmer, the eldest son, lives on the home place.

Elmer Mosiman, who in 1946 married Evelyn Smith, of Gibbstown, New Jersey, moved with his new bride the same year to settle on the home place which they now own. They have a beautiful shelterbelt of trees that they planted on this farm. It is so outstanding that in 1958, it became the first farmstead in Sully County to receive the award of hav-



Mr. and Mrs. Frank J. Yackley, 1941. Early Settlers of Richvalley Township.

ing the South Dakota Forestry Department name it a "Tree Farm."

Frank J. Yackley and sons, in 1928, bought and improved the present Cuthbert (Cub) Yackley farm that they purchased from Robert Nelson. A grove of trees was planted, and in 1956, a 2200-foot artesian well was dug with a flow of 60 gallons per minute. This is the only flowing well in the township. Mr. and Mrs. Frank Yackley had four children. Cub has always lived on the home place since its purchase. Benno purchased a farm in Buffalo Township. Elizabeth (Mrs. Joe Naughton) is at Highmore, South Dakota. And James, who is a doctor, lives at Rapid City, South Dakota. At present the Marvin Matthews family is engaged in farming operations with Cub Yackley. Mrs. Matthews is the granddaughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Frank J. Yackley.

In the year of 1919, Perry Crosby



Mr. and Mrs. Frank J. Yackley and Four Children, about 1947. Standing, left to right — Mrs. Yackley (Clara), Elizabeth (Mrs. Joe Naughton), Cuthbert (Cub), Benno and James. Frank Yackley in foreground.

and family bought the old Turley homestead from Emil Flood. The following year they moved there and began improving it. A new house, barn and other buildings came to grace the farm a few years later. Mrs. Crosby recounts that during those early years a trip to Onida meant going a half mile west and then heading out southwest cross-country over the rolling prairies. It was in 1945, that Mr. and Mrs. Crosby moved from their farm to Onida. Mrs. Crosby still resides there since the passing of her husband. They have two living children. Louella (Mrs. Fred Hoffman) lives in Pierre, South Dakota, and Vivian (Mrs. Paul LaRosh) is on the home place.

Paul LaRosh, who in 1942 married Vivian Crosby, of Richvalley, purchased the Crosby farm in 1952. They have a family of three children, Tom, Patty and Jimmy. Tom is enrolled as a student at the Richvalley School.

In 1944, Mrs. Marie Kellogg and her sons moved from Pearl Township to Richvalley to make their home on the Sturgeon farm that was once a part of the King Ranch. Her son, Francis, passed away in 1955. It was then that her son, LeRoy, and his daughter returned from California to make their home with his mother. LeRoy served in the armed forces for World War II. Mrs. Kellogg's other son, Paul, lives with his family in Onida.

It was in the year 1921 that Jess J. Clark bought the land where he and his family in 1925 began improvements and built up the present-day farm. They have three sons, Lloyd of Onida, Ralph of Marietta, Minnesota, and Lester of Portland, Oregon. Mr. and Mrs. Clark lived on their farm until 1943, when they moved to Marietta, Minnesota, where they now reside.

Lloyd Clark, who in 1935 married Elsie Shoup, of Richvalley, bought his folk's home place in 1943. Some improvements he has added are a large steel quonset granary and a big steel quonset cattle shed. They have one daughter, Delma Dean, who is married to B. J. Kilpatrick and lives in Big Springs, Texas.

In 1929, Carmel Larson moved with his family from Stanton, Iowa, to Sully County. In 1931, they came to live in Richvalley on the Haverly farm. Then in 1935, they purchased the old Cleve Garten farm, moving there the following year

to make it their home up to the present. They have two sons. Donley lives on the home place and farms with his father. Leland, who in 1949 was married to Ruth Hill Kelly, of Mt. Ayr, Iowa, lives with his family in Davenport, Iowa. He is salesman for the Midwest Equipment Company.

It was in 1923 that Robert Minder and family moved from the far-off country of Switzerland to see if their golden dreams of America's opportunities could be realized. They came straight to Richvalley Township, living the first couple years with his brother-in-law, Jake Mosiman, on the Judge Roberts place. Then in 1925, they purchased the Henry Heuer farm where they established their first home in America and where they still live. They have added many improvements to the farm with the latest being a large steel granary. They have a family of six children. Ella (Mrs. George Huffman) is in Butterfield, Minnesota, Robert in Los Angeles, California, Frieda (Mrs. Franklin Wiebe) in Reedley, California, Carl on the home place, David in Onida, and Bertha (Mrs. Danny Stahl) at Yale, South Dakota.

Carl Minder, who in 1952 married Glenda Walter, of Doland, South Dakota, lives on the home place and farms in partnership with his father. They have a large modern house that they built a short time after they were married. It is located a little southwest of their folk's home. They have two boys, Joe and Jimmy, who are still under school age.

M. M. Kiker from Frederick, Oklahoma, in 1950 purchased the Chuck Schultz farm. It was in 1951 that they moved on this place, living there part time. These fine southern folk were greeted with a wicked March blizzard that kept them snowbound for six days when they first came to Richvalley. This cold reception didn't dampen their spirits, and they have come to spend more and more time in Richvalley until, in 1956, they made this their permanent home. Their son, Theodore, and his family live a short distance away in Garner Township.

It was in 1958 that Anton Gerald moved with his family from Columbus, Kansas, to live on the Bill Asmussen farm in the northwestern part of Richvalley. This used to be the Hortman farm before being purchased by Bill Asmussen. They

have four children, Carol, Barbara, Doris and Tony. The first two are attending the West Harrison School outside the district because of the great distance they would have to go to attend the Richvalley School.

This is the grand group of industrious folk who make up the population of Richvalley Township. Some of them are still pioneers in their own right, others are descendants of pioneers, and even others have moved in, but all possess that flowing fervor and indomitable courage to press forward in building up and making this community the kind of a place of which the county, state and nation may be proud.



SUMMIT TOWNSHIP

Clark Howard, his brother, James, and Robert McClure all filed in Summit Township in 1882 and returned with their families from Illinois the following year. There were five children in the Clark Howard family, Bert, Lincoln, Morton, Cora, who became Mrs. O. E. McArthur, and Isabella, who became Mrs. John Miles. John Miles also came in 1883. Bert and Lincoln Howard spent the remainder of their lives in Summit. Bert remained a bachelor and Lincoln married Mrs. Maude Sedgwick. After his death in 1931, she managed the farm until ill health prevented. A daughter, Mrs. Jessie Yeager, and children John, Rose, Mary, now Mrs. Rueben Schmidt, and Howard made their home with her and lived there after her death in 1945, until about 1950. Morton moved to the DeGrey neighborhood and married a McClure girl. Mrs. Frank Baade, of that area, is his daughter.

Mr. and Mrs. John Miles spent their entire married life in Summit Township. She made her home with a daughter in Oregon the last few years before she passed away in 1956, at the age of 92. Mrs. Miles assisted neighbors many times in case of illness or death, in addition to raising her own ten children.

The Reed family lived in the township until 1935, when they moved to Lead, South Dakota. Mr. Reed still has his home there. She died in 1951 or 52. They raised nine children, Alberta, Lloyd, Elmo, Eugenia, Bernyl, Arvella, Leonard, Dorothy and Audrey.

The late Leon and Gus Howard of Blunt were sons of James Howard. A daughter, Bertha, married C. L. Howard, an early Summit Township schoolteacher. They lost an infant son and before the second son was born, Mr. Howard passed away. She returned to her parent's home for several years and later moved to Onida where she was postmistress for a number of years. Clifford Howard married Lissa Haverly. Minnie, also a daughter of James Howard, married John Walker and they lived in Summit Township for several years before moving to Texas. One son married Bessie Bloom, daughter of Ed Bloom. James Howard died in a cistern on the Walker farm in 1905. He was cleaning it out and it was believed that he was gassed.



Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Hunt Early Pioneers of Summit Township.

Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Hunt homesteaded on Section Four in 1883, coming from Beloit, Wisconsin. A daughter, Hattie, married Benton Doner, of Garner Township. Mrs. John Evans, of Agar, is their daughter. Maud married Judge Dan Anderson and later moved to Albia, Iowa. The Hunt home burned on Christmas Eve in 1886. Mr. and Mrs. Hunt returned to Wisconsin after Ed Pierce bought their farm.

Oscar Fox came in the early 1900's and remained until his death in 1937.

Charles J. Johnson came to Sully County in 1883. He later returned to his home in Havana, Illinois, and in 1885, he brought his family to Summit Township and resided on the old Youngberg place. He then filed a claim and homesteaded in Blaine Township, later moving on what was known as the Ney place. The family



Mr. and Mrs. Charles J. Johnson Pioneers of Summit Township.

then purchased the Matusch farm, now owned by the Gross Brothers.

Charles and his wife, Christina, had two sons and a daughter, Frank W., Louie D. and Hattie.

In 1905, the family moved to Onida where Charles operated the Onida Hotel for several years. After he retired, he purchased the J. N. Garner home, now owned by Harold Martin. Charles passed away May 16, 1916. Christina, affectionately known as Ma Johnson, made her home with her daughter and family, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Hoover, a couple of years before she passed away on September 26, 1943.

Frank W., the eldest of three children, spent his childhood on his parent's farm. When a young man, he filed a homestead on a quarter of land east of his father's farm and later acquired the other three quarters in the same section. Farming and stockraising was his occupation. In 1905, he was elected to the County office of Register of Deeds, which office he held for four years. In 1907, he was married to Victoria Brooking, the daughter of a pioneer family of Hartford Township. In 1910, he opened the first hardware store in Onida and about two years later, in partnership with Minor J. Haverly, built the brick building on the east side of Main street and moved their hardware business there, known as The

Johnson & Haverly Hardware. Some years later they also built the garage that stands on Main street south of the present Hotel. In later years he disposed of his interests in the stores and for a while engaged in farming. In 1922, he was ap-



Hattie Johnson, 17. daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles J. Johnson.



Mr. and Mrs. Lou Johnson and their entire family of children, in-laws and grandchildren, at their Golden Wedding Anniversary held at Upland, California, on April 27, 1955.

pointed to the position of Highway Superintendent of Sully County and held this job until he and his wife moved to Cincinnati in 1950. He served the City of Onida as mayor from 1938 to 1948. Their two sons, Howard and Edwin, are in business together in Cincinnati, Ohio, and an adopted neice, Marjorie Vincent, lives in Columbus, Ohio.

Louie, the second son, married Emelia Nelson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Nelson, Sr., on April 27, 1904, in Onida. He was engaged in farming and later in a general merchandise store in Onida. He then entered into a partnership with William Spears in real estate and livestock business. The family moved to California in 1941. Mrs. Johnson passed away in 1956, and Lou makes his home with his daughter, Mrs. Helen O'Brian, in Upland, California. The other children, who have settled in southern California are Harriet (Mrs. Basil Harris), Robert, Thomas, Richard and Ben. Neal and Margaret (Mrs. Don Mateer) preceded their mother in death.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles A. Miller, of Nebraska, had purchased land during a land boom in 1907. Arriving in the spring

of 1909, accompanied by Roy Earhart, a brother of Mrs. Miller, they drove mules and a covered wagon made expressly for this purpose, perhaps a fore-runner of the modern trailer house. It was fixed so that they were able to live in it while they put in their crops and planted trees, as they had brought seeds, supplies and necessities with them. Mrs. Miller was handicapped by a broken leg, sustained before coming on the trip. Their sons C. E. (Earl) and Arthur remained in Nebraska with relatives that spring. The elder Millers moved to Blunt in their later years. After Mrs. Miller passed away in 1950, Mr. Miller made his home with his son, Earl and family, until he passed away in 1954. In 1918, Earl married a young lady from Iowa who came here to teach school. They have four children, Mrs. Lee Lindell, Mrs. Larry Williamson and Charles of Onida and Mrs. Myrle Auch, of Miller, South Dakota. The Earl Millers live on the home place.

Arthur Miller married Della Edge, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Tom Edge. They resided in Summit Township for a few years and now live in Plattville, Wisconsin. A daughter, Evelyn, married Ray-

mond Moore, a Sully County boy, and their home is near Blunt.

Mr. and Mrs. Armanus Kitchen and family of six children came in 1910, from Iowa, and moved onto what was known as the Pete Youngberg place. Mr. and Mrs. Kitchen moved to Hughes County sometime in the twenties, the family having established homes of their own by this time. Oscar lives in Kansas, Clarence in Hughes County, Stella married Howard Miles and lives in Blunt, Charlotte, who became Mrs. Pirl Edge, lived in Summit Township. Kermith lives in Goodwater Township, and Florence Zebroski, the youngest, is presently living in Onida. After Charlotte's husband passed away, she later married Claude Blaisdell of Onida Township.

Mr. and Mrs. James Kozel and only child, Royal, came to Summit Township about 1907, and lived there until about 1920, when they moved to Blunt and operated The Midway Garage, which Royal still manages.

Mr. and Mrs. John Williams and sons, Ray and Robert, came from Missouri, in 1907. They built up the place where the Vern Allison's live. John passed away in 1929, and that fall Mrs. Williams went to California to live with her son, Robert, and family. Ray had died previously as the result of an auto accident.

Mr. and Mrs. Ed Pierce and three children, moved on the Hunt farm in the fall of 1903. Mrs. Pierce, born Isabella



Artesian Well on Ed Pierce Farm, 1904.
Dave Hall behind horse.

Mallock, first came to Sully county in 1883, when she was five years old. Ed Pierce came two years later. The family lived in a basement home which was on the place until 1909, when the large house, presently occupied by Elmer Pierce, was built. Nine children grew to maturity there. Stanley, who taught 17 terms in rural schools, lives on the Oscar Fox place, Elmer is on the home place, Eleanor (Mrs. Clifford Thompson) still resides in the township, Marjorie Jones lives in Nebraska, Arthur is in Iowa, Ralph is in Wisconsin, Charles in Michigan, and Marion in Onida. Lloyd passed away, in 1931, as the result of an accident at the age of 24. Mr. Pierce died in 1919, and Mrs. Pierce, in 1954.

The Ernest Blaisdell family came from southern Colorado in 1912. There were six children in the family. The oldest is dead. Mrs. Fern McKee and Glen live in Garner, Claude in Onida Township, Maona (Mrs. Oscar Kitchen) in Kansas, and Floyd in Washington.

Mr. and Mrs. Ben Schierholz and three children, Belva, Howard and Alice, came in 1921. Another son, Hadley, was born several years later. Belva married Joe Roddewig and lives in California, and Alice is married and lives in Oregon. The Schierholzs moved to Junction City, Ore-



Isabella Mallock (Mrs. Ed Pierce). When she was two years old.

gon, in 1936. Mr. and Mrs. Marion Pierce lived on the Schierholz place from 1936 until 1943.

Jack Williamson and family moved into the township about 1923. His wife was the former Edith Bloom, daughter of Ed Bloom. They moved to Oregon in 1942. There were six daughters, Helen, Viola, Maribel, Juanita, Betty Lou and Bonnie, and a son, Jackie. Jack's brother, L. L. Williamson, and family moved on the place vacated by the Jacks family and remained there until 1955, when they moved to Pierre. Mr. and Mrs. Williamson are presently in Belle Fourche, South Dakota, Larry and Carol (Mrs. Orville Davis), are in Onida, Pat (Mrs. Russell Buchholz) in Norfolk Township, Clifford is in the Navy, and Marilyn (Mrs. Jack Bower) of Fairpoint, South Dakota.

The John Kleinsasser family came in 1919, and built the house now occupied by the Clifford Thompson family. There were six daughters and a son, Elias, who married Ruby Warne of Iowa Township. A daughter, Dorothy, is a missionary to Africa.

Mr. and Mrs. August F. Koester and daughter, Kathryn, came in 1921, from Illinois, and bought the old Albert Reed farm. After Mr. Koester passed away in 1946, Mrs. Koester moved to Onida, where she makes her home at the present time. Kathryn and her husband, Robert Burgeson, and son, Milton, live on the home place.

George Van de Loo and Tony Etzkorn came in 1920, and lived where Bydalek now lives. In 1927, they dissolved partnership and Tony moved to the Canning area. In 1934, George married a nurse from Wisconsin. Mrs. Van de Loo did private nursing and assisted at the Pierre Hospital. They purchased the farm vacated by the Pearsons in 1939 and moved on that fall. Pat Wood, of Kansas, bought the place in 1954. The Van de Loos built on the Northwest of the same section where they now live.

Henry Becker came to Sully County in 1920, living in Onida Township until 1930. Mrs. Becker, whose maiden name was Katie Zeuge, came from Germany in 1924. She lived with an uncle and grandparents in Onida Township, and attended school in Summit. There are seven children in the family, Evelyn, Joyce, Fred, Jim, Vivian, Irene and George, who at-

tends the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Halsey and two sons lived on the old Walker place for several years, later on the Kleinsasser place where they had a sale and moved to Illinois, in 1936. Mr. and Mrs. Fred Harris and a son, Francis and family, came in about 1946, and moved on the Alva Byrum place. The parents did not stay long. Their house was then moved to its present location near the highway and remodeled. The Francis Harris family left in 1955, and located at Yankton, South Dakota. Hugo Kinkler, of Littlefield, Texas, is the present owner of this place.

Emel Johnson was born and raised in Lincoln Township. He married a young lady from Wisconsin and they lived on the old Johnson place for seven years. They built a new home in Summit Township in 1928, moving to Onida several years ago. Their youngest son, Melvin and his wife and two small children, live on the farm. Orville, the oldest son, is City Manager of N. St. Paul, Minnesota, and Charles is a medical doctor at Des Moines, Iowa.

Mr. and Mrs. F. R. Burgeson and sons, Robert and Donald, came from Nebraska in 1939. A son, Clarence, and a daughter remained in Nebraska. Another son, Wallace, assisted at the farm part of the time the first summer. In 1944, at the age of 27, he met a tragic death. He was on vacation from his job at a Government Lookout Tower for planes, in Oregon, when a boat capsized in the Sandy River and he and a companion were drowned. Mr. and Mrs. Burgeson moved to Onida in 1957, when Donald married a girl from Germany and they took over management of the farm. Mr. Burgeson passed away in 1958. She continues to make her home here.

Mr. and Mrs. Alva Byrum and four children came in 1929, and remained until about 1947. One son, Alvan, passed away during this time. Pierre lives in Jackson, Michigan, Howard at Lead, South Dakota, and Virginia Hilton, who operates the Vanity Beauty parlor in Onida. Mr. and Mrs. Byrum now live at White Lake, South Dakota.

Verne Allison came to Sully County with his parents in 1910, from Vilas, South Dakota. They lived at Eakin, where his father was Station Agent for the rail-

road for many years. Verne and his family moved into Summit Township in 1930. Their children are Virginia, who lives in California, Vernon in Sturgis, Lorraine (Mrs. Richard Martin) and Darlene (Mrs. Kenneth Smith), both of Agar, Doris, in Pierre, and Margaret (Mrs. Ralph Hanson) in Kansas City. A grandson, Melvin, makes his home with the Verne Allisons.

Mr. and Mrs. Ronelly Todd and three children moved into Summit Township in 1948. They have four children, Gary, Rona, Annis and Judy.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Stephens came from Goodlet, Texas, in 1949, and moved onto the place where the Ralph Dunkelbergers had lived for about six years. There were four children in the family. Charles attends Northern State Teachers College, Aberdeen, Weldon, Judy and Dennis attend Onida schools and Cheryl and Dena are at home.

Alfonso Bydalek has been a resident since 1940.

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Letellier came in 1952. They have four daughters, Janet (Mrs. Jerry Armantrout), lives at Bakersfield, California, and has a daughter, Jennifer Lee, Beverly (Mrs. Dale Brown) is a student at South Dakota State University, and Hazel and Carol are at home.

Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Thompson moved onto the Kleinsasser place when they were married in 1936. They have three daughters, Jeannine, attending Northern State Teachers College, and Kathleen and Lynn are at home.

There were 15 or more places occupied in the twenties than there are at the present time and it was necessary to operate three schools in the township during some of the time. Summit has seven pupils, two are attending the Onida Grade School and six are in High School.

A mail route comes through the south part of the township from Blunt that has existed since before 1917.

There are now only 16 permanent families, including three bachelors. A few others come during the farming season. All the families have electricity, over half of the homes are completely modern, several have been remodeled and all have added improvements during the more prosperous years. Many trees have been planted, and the yards improved.

Entertainment through the passing years has changed as much or perhaps

more than anything else. Literary Societies, Spelling Bees, parties and visiting were the early pastimes. In the 1920's, house parties, where the entire family could spend the evening, were a common occurrence. Children played games, the older folks played cards, while the middle-aged group danced. All contributed to the lunch and all enjoyed themselves at a minimum of expense. Sometimes a Farm Bureau meeting preceded the entertainment. A box social at the local schoolhouse was considered an event. A ladies club has been in existence in Summit Township since 1925. It started as an Extension Club, and is called Summit Friendly Neighbors.

In 1909, Ed Pierce and Ed Lehman, who lived in Onida Township, had a private telephone line built to their homes. This was the only telephone in Summit Township until the Bell Telephone Company installed one on the Emel Johnson farm in the forties. This telephone functioned until the R.E.A. line was built in 1950, when it ceased to work properly and had to be abandoned. For many years, when transportation to and from town wasn't what it is today, people came for miles around to use this telephone, especially in cases of sickness, deaths or telegrams. The Pierce family also delivered news of this nature to their neighbors upon many occasions.



TROY TOWNSHIP



South Troy School, 1940. Mattie Muldoon, teacher. Back row, left to right — Velva Brehe, Madge Bramblette, Lois Byrum and Mabel Byrum. Front row — Alice Byrum, Mike Mikkelsen, Jake Weischedel, Wayne Teets and Mildred Byrum. Rhythm Band at Music Festival.

Troy Township is located in the northwest part of Sully County bounded on the west by the Missouri River. Well known land marks are the Laurel Hills and Anderson Hill. Indians used to cross it in days past going between Pierre and Cheyenne. They traded blankets for milk, eggs and chickens, along the way.

At one time there were two schoolhouses in the township but only one, South Troy, is running now. The building is 62 years old, has been remodeled several times, and moved four times to accommodate the families. John Sutton, Ed Wagner and Julius Brehe were schoolboard members for many years. Oliver Byrum replaced Julius and served for a number of years, and now James Wagner, Virgil Biley and William Becker carry on.

Of the early settlers coming into Troy and having descendants still living in the township are the Suttons and Wagners.

The Sutton Family

One of the oldest continuous operations in Sully County is the Sutton Ranch. The home ranch was acquired in 1896, by Ed Sutton and wife, Jessie. They made the purchase of the original 1484 acres from the department store firm of Carson, Perrie, Scott Company, of Chicago. This beginning has since grown to include some 30,000 acres. In 1886, James Pearman sold his place to Stucky and McLane which gave these two men control of about eight quarters, and made one of the best stock ranches on the Missouri River



Mr. and Mrs. Ed Sutton, 1916. Troy Township Pioneers.

Valley. Later Stucky and McLane sold their holding to the Chicago firm, and it was from this company that Ed Sutton obtained the original homesite.

Edwin DeLos Sutton was born at Waubeka, Wisconsin, April 7, 1865. His parents moved to Iowa and in 1883, the family came to Dakota Territory, homesteading in southwestern Potter County. Shipping their belongings to the end of the railroad, then at Redfield, they drove an oxen team from there to their new homesite.

In 1894, Ed Sutton married Jessie Nopier, and established their first home on a ranch five miles north of the present Missouri bridge on Cheyenne Creek. They moved to their permanent home in Sully County in 1898. Jessie's family had homesteaded at Old Forest City, South Dakota, where she grew to young womanhood, and taught school before her marriage.

Three of the Sutton children were born in Potter County — Jeannie, Elsie and John. Edith, Florence, James and Raymond were born in Troy Township, and all attended rural school, except Florence and Raymond, who attended grade school in Huron.



Original Buildings on Sutton Ranch, 1896.



Buildings on Sutton Ranch, about 1900.

Jeannie married Owen Kearns. They had five children, four of them still living, one dying while a young child. Jeannie passed away several years ago.

Elsie married Swen Nystrom, of Fairbank Township. They have three children, and live on a ranch near Pierre. Edith married Geoff Garrett and they have built up a ranch in western Sully. Their son, Glen, lives there now and the parents have a home in Pierre. Florence is Mrs. Teigen and lives in Aberdeen. They have one boy.

The three boys John, James and Raymond, carried on with the ranch operations following the death of their parents.

Ed Sutton passed away July 7, 1938, and Mrs. Sutton, on March 27, 1940.

John lived on the home ranch. He married Mildred Hansen of Lead, South Dakota, who taught in the Sully County schools previous to her marriage. They

have four children. John Jr. "Matt", Lois, Thelma and Kenneth. Mildred and John now live in Onida. Matt lives at the ranch and is now having a new home built on the flat, as the present ranch buildings will be flooded by water of the Oahe Dam. Matt attended the Troy School. He attended Onida High School and is a graduate of Brookings State College. Lois, Mrs. Elliott Byrum, lives in Onida. She has three children and is also a graduate of Onida High School and the University of Colorado. She is a registered nurse. Thelma is Mrs. Alvin Allison and she also lives in Onida. She has three children and is a graduate of Onida High School and attended Stephens College in Columbia, Missouri. Kenneth is at present attending Brookings State College and is a graduate of Onida High School.

James Sutton lived on what was known as the Thrope Place. He married Flossie Nystrom, of Fairbank Township. The home has been remodeled and modernized. The sale barn, where the annual bull sales are held, is located at this ranch. There are outstanding shelter-belts about the place. Mr. and Mrs. Sutton have a home in Onida and their two sons, Jim and Lyle, live on the ranch. Both boys attended the rural school in Troy and both are Onida High School graduates. Jim also graduated from Brookings State College. He married Julie Nelson, of Onida, and has two children. Lyle married Deanna Thomas, of east Onida, and they have one son. Deloris is married to Derwin Worth and lives on a ranch in Potter County. She has three children.

Raymond Sutton, the youngest of the three boys, lives north of the home ranch. This place was at one time owned by Bill Ripley. Raymond married Buelah Cass, of



Sutton Ranch Home, 1910. Sutton family in Maxwell car. Front seat — Mr. and Mrs. Ed Sutton, James and Raymond. Back seat — Jeanie, John and Elsie holding Edith.

Garner Township. They have three children, Alice and Buena Rae, both attending Huron College, and Ray, who is now in high school in Onida. They have a home in Onida, but spend the summer on the ranch. Because of the Oahe Dam flooding, they will also build a new home. They have shelter-belts started on the new location.

Sutton Brothers have built up their herd of Registered Herefords, started in 1910, to one of the best in the country. To date they have had their 17th annual Registered Hereford Bull sale.

The Sutton Ranch was also the home of several types of well-bred horses and



Registered Herefords at Sutton Ranch, 1957.



Lois and Thelma Sutton, 1953. Means of crossing Artichoke Creek after the flood washed out the bridge.

at one time the herd numbered more than 1,000 head. A train-load of horses was shipped to the Chicago Market in August, 1933. This shipment, being one of the largest of its kind, made the headlines in the Chicago papers. Well-bred horses have continued to be of interest on the ranch, and at the present time a fine herd of Registered Quarter horses is well established. They also have rodeo horses of national interest. In 1916, Ed Sutton purchased four fine Percheron Stallions in Iowa. These horses were the start of the registered horses on the Sutton Ranch.



Sutton Family, 1936. Front row, left to right — Francis Kearns, Lorraine Sutton, Norman, Robert and Marvin Nystrom, Edith Kearns, Lois and John Jr., Sutton and Ina Garrett. Second row — Edith Garrett holding her baby Glen, Jeanie Kearns holding Dorothy Kearns, Delores Sutton, Mrs. Ed Sutton and Ed, Mildred Sutton, John Sutton holding daughter Thelma and Florence Teigen. Back row — Geoff Garrett, Flossie Sutton, Baby James Sutton Jr. held by Elsie Nystrom, Swen Nystrom, Owen Kearns and James Sutton.



Sutton Brothers Horses, 1953. A portion of the herd shipped to Chicago.

With the lack of demand for the heavy work horse, the change was made to the saddle and rodeo type, for which there is a better market.

In 1914, Ed Sutton acquired his first buffalo, which became the nucleus of the present herd and one of few large privately owned herds in the United States. In March of 1917, Mr. Sutton purchased three buffalo cows and two crossbred calves at the Naughton and Tegland sale at Agar, South Dakota. Later a bull was purchased from the South Dakota state



"Snubbing" a wild horse at Sutton Ranch.
The first step in breaking wild horses.

park herd. In January, 1925, at the Scotty Philips sale, 12 more head of buffalo cows were added to the herd.

The herd increased quite rapidly and about 1930, they numbered around 125 head. Feeding and ranging became a problem so about half of the herd was sold. At present the herd numbers about 80 head and 25 spring calves. Each year the surplus is sold to keep the amount to conform with the size of the strongly fenced pasture, which will provide adequate feed for just so many buffalo.

The Sutton land will soon be flooded by the waters of the Oahe Dam. May its future use be as valuable and pleasant to



John, Raymond and James Sutton with their Quarter Horse, Major's Traveler.

the generations to come as it has been to those who have made their home on these river bottoms for many generations. There is much evidence that the Indians, too, enjoyed these areas long before white man came. There will be approximately 100 feet of water at the old home site. The government has given the families on the upper part of the dam area until 1961, in which to move.



The Wagner Family



Mathias J. Wagner. Pioneer of Troy Township.

Mathias J. Wagner and his wife, Elizabeth, migrated to this country from Odessa, Russia, and settled in Sully County in June, 1884. They came by covered wagon and oxen and lived in a dugout sodded up about two feet. Later they built a house one mile south of the present Albert Brehe farm. Elizabeth would walk to Laurel, about five miles west, and work all day for the meager wage of \$1.00, and then walk back home at night. Mr. Wagner sold the oxen at Cheyenne Agency in the early nineties for three or four cents a pound. The yoke is still owned by their son, Ed, and can be seen at the State Museum in Pierre.

Elizabeth Wagner passed away in 1910, and her husband, in 1947, at the age of 94.

Their son Ed D. married May Gerlack, of Milford Township, on November 30, 1910. At first they lived on a home-

stead in Troy Township where Matt Sutton now lives and then moved to the present Ed Wagner farm where they lived for 49 years, moving to Pierre on August 11, 1954, where they now reside.

Mr. and Mrs. Ed Wagner had five children, Lester, Vera, Edna, Orville and Velma. Lester, the oldest, married Florence Shoup in May, 1936, and has a farm in Potter County. They have two boys, Duane and Lavern. Vera and her brother, Orville, own and operate the "Trading Post" at Pierre. Edna and Velma are employed at the State House in Pierre. Vera, Edna, Velma and Orville attended Northern State Teachers College, Aberdeen. Vera taught in the Onida Grade School for four years, and Edna and Orville both taught in Sully County. Velma took a business course while at Northern.

John Wagner married Myrle McMillan, of Onida. They lived on the old Jerry Conint homestead who had a sod house and had planted flowers in the wide window ledges of the house which bloomed profusely. The Wagners planted many trees around their home and beautified it in many ways. They lived there until 1956, when they built a new home in Onida where they now live. Their son,



Mrs. Mathias J. Wagner (Elizabeth). Pioneer of Troy Township.



E. D. Wagner Family, 1944. Mr. and Mrs. Ed Wagner and five children, left to right, Lester, Velma, Orville, Edna and Vera.

James, now lives on the farm. He married Alvina Westphal and both graduated from Agar High School. James and Alvina have one son who attends the Troy School where his father also received his grade school education.

William Wagner married Mary Wilcox, of Agar, and lived on her father's homestead. Mary passed away in May, 1944. They had five children, Raymond, Maynard, Delores, Leonard and Darlene. Raymond married Jeanette Tobin, and he and his brother, Maynard, are engaged in construction work in Sioux Falls. The two girls live in North Dakota, and Leonard attends high school in Gettysburg.



Four Generations of Wagners, 1945. Mathias Wagner, son Ed, grandson Lester, and great grandson Duane.

Mathias, Jr. married Louise Bale and they live in North Dakota. Elizabeth and her husband, George Comeau, and four children live in Gettysburg. Kathryn is married to Clifford Rygmyr and lives in Forest City, Iowa. Lillian and her husband, Rudolph Schreiber, and daughter, Alta, live in Sanborn, North Dakota. Jacob married Fern Lyons, of Agar. They had two sons, Richard and Donald J. Jacob passed away in 1926. Susie is married to Fred Dykman and lives at Springfield, South Dakota. They have eight children. Minnie and her husband, James Fryda, and six children live in Springfield. Ralph married Phyllis Speirs, of Agar. They had six children, Charles, Clarence, Dorothy, Marlin, Lyle and Arlo.

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The Gerlach family came to Troy Township in 1886. The old home still remains, but has been remodeled. One of the sons, George, lives in Agar and Bill lives in Miller. There were nine children in the family.

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In 1886, Mr. and Mrs. John Sandran homesteaded in Pearl Township. They then bought land in Troy Township, now farmed by Merle VonWald. Mr. Sandran was a Civil War veteran.

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The land now farmed by Oliver Evans was homesteaded by a man by the name of Swab, an old bachelor, who came in 1883.

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Down along the river about four miles south of the Sutton Ranch, a family by the name of John Lier settled.

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Two families of later days living in West Troy and leaving in the thirties were Clarence Currier and Ralph Dunkelberger. Mrs. Currier was Minnie Weischedel of Pearl Township. They raised four children, now all in Oregon. Mrs. Dunkelberger was Annie Swenson of Pearl Township. She taught school in Sully County for several years. There were four girls, one being Mrs. Allan Hale, now of Onida. There are no buildings remaining on these places now.

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Another family living in Troy Township, but now all gone, was the Charley Johnson or "Swede" Johnson, as he was known. Their home was north and west of

the Merle VonWald farm. They raised seven children and one, Alice, now Mrs. Russell Rilling, lives in Pierre. Mrs. Johnson is still living and makes her home in Detroit, Michigan.



William Becker and Maude Becker who came in 1933, live on what is known as the old Charlie Johnson place. It is also where the old Laurel Post Office was located. They have planted a fine shelterbelt and modernized their home. They have one daughter, Helen, who with her husband, Virgil Biley and two children, live in their own home and farm with the Beckers. Helen attended rural schools in Troy Township, high school in both Agar and Onida, graduating from Onida High School. One of the children now attends Troy School.



Julius Brehe homesteaded the present Brehe home in 1902, married and permanently moved there in 1919, building up the present home. They lived there until 1956, when they retired to Pierre. They planted trees and shrubs about their home and managed to raise gardens even in dry years. They have two girls, Irene, now Mrs. Romo, who lives in California, and Velva, Mrs. Kenneth Redin, living in Pierre. There are three grandchildren. Both girls attended school in Troy and Agar High School.



Mr. and Mrs. Hio Heien came to Troy Township from Iowa, living there for 31 years before moving to Pierre. The last nine years they lived on the old Gerlach homestead. For 22 years they lived nearby on the place known as the Hansen farm. They recently sold their place to John Sutton. Gordon Peacock lives there. Merle VonWald has built on the old Hansen place near the Heien Dam.

Mr. and Mrs. Heien raised seven children, all attending the Troy rural schools and graduating from Pierre High School. Alma, Mrs. Albert Steffens, and Alvin, who married Evie McCamly, farm in Sully County; Loretta lives at Vivian; Lenice in Arizona; the twins, Helen and Ella, in Michigan, and Ethel May in Texas.



Oliver Byrums moved to Troy Township in 1929, living about six miles west of their present home which they moved to in 1937. Oliver was born in Garner



Oliver Byrum, 1922. Resident of Troy Township.

Township, attended rural schools there and graduated from Onida High School in 1920.

In early days this place was owned by August Felt, later by a Mr. Baxter and then by Ronald Rilling who started a good shelterbelt. Walter Basil then bought it and lived there several years, leaving it in the thirties. The Byrums planted more trees in 1948 and again in 1952. The home has been modernized and farming and cattle raising are carried on.

There are six children and all attended the South Troy School. Eugene graduated from Agar High School and from the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology at Rapid City, and at present is in the Armed Forces.

Lois graduated from Onida High School just 25 years after her father. She is a graduate of the University of Vermillion and is now a Lieutenant in the Navy. Mabel, Mrs. Neil Hansen, lives in Idaho. She has three children. Both she and Neil graduated from Onida High School. Mildred attends the University of Minnesota and is interning in Children's Clinical Psychology. Alice, Mrs. Cole Neal, a graduate of Onida High School, attended Brookings State College, and now teaches in Pierre. She has three children.

Laurence married Karen Rivenes, of Onida, and has two children. He lives on the Julius Brehe place and works in cooperation with the home place.

Time Clock

1883 — Professor David Staples was superintendent of schools . . . The Clifton Sun (newspaper) went under a cloud—never to rise again . . . Election of school officers in 27 districts was held on September 15.

1884 — The first issue of the Okobojo Times was published on May 16, by E. Frankhauser and S. A. Travis . . . Clifton discovered a well 94 feet deep, with pure fresh sparkling water.

1885 — Onida and Fairbank organized as civil townships in September . . . The Onida Journal established a circulating library in October, with 65 volumes. One cent a day secured a book . . . Onida became the county seat . . . As of May, there were fifteen organized Sunday schools in Sully County.

1886 — Twenty-eight pupils enrolled in the Onida school for the winter term . . . The First Baptist Church was organized in Summit township in July, with the Rev. Barden attending . . . George Glessner joined the Fort Sully Military Band in April and became a member of that musical organization during the next five years.

1887 — Farmers in vicinity of Onida organized a Farmer's Alliance, May 28. Prime objective was to avail themselves of the low rates of insurance . . . The mercury registered 36 degrees below zero in Onida on January 9 . . . Philip Murphy and J. W. Glessner of Okobojo made final proof on their homesteads.

1888 — Over 17,000 bushels of corn were raised in Summit Township . . . One dollar bought twelve pounds of sugar in Onida . . . Onida had daily mail service as of July 1.

1889 — South Dakota was admitted by proclamation to the Union of States on November 2, as was North Dakota at the same moment . . . Benjamin Harrison took his oath of office on March 4, as president of the United States . . . South Dakota started out with about \$80,000 in her treasury . . . Cheyenne was the name chosen for the new town platted below Fairbank on the Missouri River . . . Pierre was chosen as the capital for

South Dakota by a majority of 10,000 votes in the election.

1890 — Sully County was divided into five census districts . . . The first term of county court, under the state law, was held July 1st . . . Sitting Bull was killed 40 miles southwest of Standing Rock Agency on December 22 . . . In January, the United States Grant Women's Relief Corps of Onida started with a membership of twenty-one . . . Henry Smith opened a blacksmith shop on April 19.

1891 — The assessed valuation of Sully County was \$1,327,495 in July . . . Rainmaker Milbourne contracted citizens of several counties, for furnishing a series of showers that extended 150 miles. He asked no pay, until rain had fallen.

1892 — The mercury registered 34 degrees below zero at various times in Onida during the week of January 16 to January 23 . . . One-third of the 1891 taxes were paid into the county treasurer as of March 12th, over \$8,000 . . . The largest judgment ever docketed in Sully County was filed with the Clerk of Courts on June 18th, in the amount of \$45,564.25 . . . It was estimated that the South Dakota wheat crop would aggregate 55,000,000 bushels.

1893 — \$8.00 per hundred for pork at Onida—\$25.00 for a fat pig! . . . Reservations may be made to attend the World's Fair in Chicago. Excursion will leave on Saturday, May 20 . . . The Ladies Equal Suffrage group realized a neat sum at their meeting in October which they sent to Colorado to assist the ladies in that state . . . On December 8, there were 50 pupils enrolled in the Onida Village School under the direction of Professor Porter and Miss Johnson . . . The organized Jack Rabbit Hunt captained by A. A. Faust and Claude Garner bagged only 13 rabbits and 5 chickens—28 hunters turned out.

1894 — Five patents were received in Pierre land office in April for Sully County settlers . . . Beginning of football in South Dakota . . . The Sully County Watchman passed its twelfth

milestone in life. . . . There were 49 children of school age in Onida as of June 15; and 514 in Sully county as of July 16 Pierre goose hunters killed and took home over 100 wild geese in Sully County.

1895 — Cattle sold at high prices in April —cows and steers brought from \$25 to \$30 per head Bicycles gradually replaced horses on the ranches. Cattle and sheep were tended to on a "bike" Thirty-five pounds of oatmeal for \$1.00 at Faust's in Onida.

1896 — There were nearly \$15,000 in taxes collected on taxable property in Sully County in February There was a partial eclipse of the moon on August 22, visible in Sully County There was more snow on the ground in Onida in November of 1896 than since the year 1881 Fresh pork sold at four cents a pound in Onida, during November.

1897 — The thermometer registered 30 below on January 24 Hay sold at \$4.00 a ton, delivered, during March First class potatoes were sold at 20 cents a bushel An estimated 3,000,000 acres of wheat were sown in South Dakota this spring.

1898 — County Treasurer Persson collected over \$13,000 in taxes during the month of February According to population, Sully County sent more men to the front than any other in the state Peace and order was restored in Cuba and Porto Rico this fall in time for the government to establish the American system of education.

1899 — Ice in the Missouri River was 42 inches thick at Forest City in March A turkey Shoot was held in Onida on Saturday 25 Huron College students from this vicinity, Frances Barber, Arthur Porter, Charles Schreiber, and Luther Nelson, spent their holiday vacation at home.

1900 — Hew Blair of Fairbank township dug out and brought to Onida on June 25, nine young grey wolves July 30 was the hottest day of the year. The mercury registered 110 in the shade and 140 in the sun About 100 Indians pitched their teepees three-fourths of a mile west of town on October 8.

1901 — Graphophones were becoming popular in the early 1900's . . . President McKinley was shot on September 9, while attending a public recep-

tion in his honor at Buffalo, New York Miss Bessie Bagby of Grandview closed her winter term of school in the Green district, Okobojo.

1902 — It was said by men at the Chicago stock yards that if it wasn't for South Dakota, the world would have to bury itself alive to keep from starving to death Sixty-five quarter sections of land sold for \$650.00 each to a Chicago syndicate during the month of February The grass was so tall during the summer months that calves were completely hidden and heads of cows lying down were all that could be seen The price of land in Sully County doubled during the last six months There were 17,268 head of cattle assessed in Sully County at a valuation of \$229,061.

1903 — Shooting rabbits by moonlight was a sport being indulged in by the nimrods It was reported that P. F. McClure of Pierre purchased the Doctor Mann ranch near Okobojo, and other lands adjoining, in June, paying \$10,000 Horses sold at \$100.00 a head during the summer months C. R. Garner killed 38 rattle snakes on August 9th The South Dakota wheat crop was estimated to be from 5 to 6 million bushels.

1904 — The Aberdeen American, a new up-to-date weekly paper, started at Aberdeen in January There were 453 pupils of school age in the county as of June Approximately 21,000 head of cattle were dipped in Sully County during June and July Work commenced on the new government capital building in Pierre during September. Cost not to exceed one million dollars.

1905 — About 30 land buyers and home seekers looked over Sully County during the first week in July The assessed valuation of personal property was about \$260 for every man, woman and child residing in the county Total rainfall for May, June and July was 16.41 inches 125,000 sheep were shipped from Pierre in October, requiring 1120 freight cars One hundred thousand tons of steel went to Pierre for the construction the railway bridge across the Missouri River at that point.

1906 — The real estate transfers in Sully County amounted to about \$15,000 for the week ending January 30 There were about 400 shade trees planted in Onida this year William Parks from Hampton, Iowa, invested \$10,000 in

the rich Sully County soil About 80,000 acres of Sully County land changed hands during the year.

1907 — A thirty-two story sky-scraper was erected in New York at a cost of \$10,000,000 Sully County was on a sound financial basis with a surplus of \$40,000 in the treasury and no debt Thirty skilled mechanics and workmen were daily employed in "building up" Onida, during August. About \$9,000 worth of buildings were under construction The new state of Oklahoma was admitted to the Union on November 16.

1908 — Evarts, a typical frontier town and great cattle market, was wiped off the earth During the first week in July, two new banks were incorporated in Onida, making three banks in town The cornerstone for the new capitol building in Pierre was laid on June 25. Among the articles deposited in the "cornerstone" of the new capitol building were coins of 1907, building contract, Holy Bible, History of South Dakota, Ordinance of 1787 and the Inaugural Address by Gov. Col. I. Crawford.

1909 — The sale of 640 acres of Sully County land was transferred to Iowa buyers the week of February 4 Onida had a population of 195 as of August 1 The Northern Normal at Aberdeen began its eighth year on September 6 The old capitol building was sold to the city of Pierre for \$1,000—one fifteenth the cost of erection.

1910 — The first Parent-Teacher organization was formed at Sidney, Ia., in January Auto speeding at 60 miles per hour was too tame—Barney Oldfield made a mile in 27.33 seconds in the month of March There were fifty-nine school houses in Sully County whose estimated value was \$24,600.

1911 — An election was called for June 20 to vote on erecting a \$7,500 school house in Onida The July apportionment which the county superintendent of schools sent to the district treasurer was \$2,546.25 the largest ever made in this county Mammoth irrigation projects originated by Doane Robinson talked about to benefit all of Sully The bank statements of the three Onida banks as of December 5, showed a total deposit of \$157,280.81 and the deposits of the two Agar banks totaled about \$54,000.

1912 — In February the county treasurer collected \$45,916.38 in taxes The statements of the three Onida banks showed a total of over \$150,000 on deposit as of June 27 Cost of the new court house was \$75,153.45 There was frost in July and a driving snow storm on September 24.

1913 — There were eight pupils enrolled in high school the first of the year Pat Kane killed a black eagle near his place. It measured seven feet, four inches from tip to tip and stood three feet high. Pat had the bird mounted About 250 gallons of cream were shipped from Agar on June 23 and 24.

1914 — The Sully County Cattle Company planted 380 acres of alfalfa along the Missouri River bottom near Fort Sully State College increased its enrollment from 61 students in 1884 to 1,000 students in 1914 Sioux Falls celebrated South Dakota's 25th anniversary of statehood in June The assassination of Archduke Francis Ferdinand, heir apparent to the Austrian throne, and his wife, at Serajevo, Bosnia, July 23, by a young Servian was the direct cause of the war crisis that confronts all Europe.

1915 — South Dakota raised \$106,500,000 worth of crops in 1914 The exhibit of fancy work from Sully County was awarded the first prize of \$100 at the State Fair South Dakota was second of all states in the Union this year in the percentage above average of its general crop conditions The year 1915 closed with prosperity and a spirit of cheerfulness greater than ever before.

1916 — The total rainfall in Onida from January 1, 1915 to January 1, 1916, was 30.4 inches There were nearly \$15,000 in taxes collected on the taxable property of Sully County during February Miss Anna Temmey was the first student to graduate from the twelfth grade of the Onida High School For the first time in history the Onida school became accredited.

1917 — The blizzard with high winds and thermometer registering 45 to 63 degrees below zero was reported by many old settlers to be the worst experienced in South Dakota The assessed valuation of Onida was \$274,328, an increase of \$23,304 over the previous year The Secretary of Interior designated as

homestead land 111,300 acres of land in South Dakota, distributed in 11 counties South Dakota's prosperity led other states. Production was nearly \$1,000 per capita The total number of individual subscribers to the Second Liberty Loan was 9,400,000 It cost \$1,615,-750.64 to maintain the government of South Dakota.

1918 — Sully County's allotment of War Savings Stamps was \$49,000 . . . A total of 5.63 inches of rain fell in Onida during the growing months of April and May As of the first of September there were about 83,000 automobiles registered in South Dakota The influenza epidemic kept Dr. Hart of Onida working 24 hour shifts for many days **WAR OVER**—November 11th!

1919 — There were 30 students in high school as of January 1, and 61 in the grades Improvements in Onida were so great as to sound like a fairy tale Population of South Dakota was about 650,000.

1920 — South Dakota was the wealthiest state per capita On March 1, the total deposits of the two banks in Onida passed the million mark There were ninety-four land transfers in the county from March 1 to March 14 . . . On August 12 and 13, there were 30,000 pounds of wool shipped out of Onida and Agar.

1921 — Oil development became a topic of discussion and some speculation in Sully County Professor Jeffers organized a Boy Scout band, believed to be the only one in South Dakota There were 143 accredited high schools in South Dakota The total valuation in Sully County was over 16 million.

1922 — There were 480 cans of cream shipped from Onida in May . . . An answer to a radiogram sent from Hartford, Conn., to the Hawaii Islands, a distance of 5,200 miles, was received in four minutes.

1923 — One by one the old land marks disappear — someone leaned against the old cottonwood stump in front of Garner's office, toppling it over The first county fair was a notable success Contracts were entered into for marketing and selling 100,000 bushels of corn.

1924 — O. S. Close sold his drug store to W. G. Abbott J. H. Gropengieser ordered five tickets from Germany to Onida, so that relatives of Sully County residents living in Germany could come here Onida became a member of the Central South Dakota Baseball League The Onida council sold \$10,000 Water Bonds.

1925 — Mrs. V. M. McFall, Sully County's first teacher, celebrated her 80th birthday in April South Dakota's population totalled 662,304—a gain of 25,000 in the past five years Sully County's population totaled 3,611, an increase of 780 in five years.

1926 — The United States is the only country with a known birthday The large cottonwood tree in front of the C. R. Garner office, planted in 1900, was cut down Miss Frances Green was chosen Pow Wow Princess at Huron College John Adams was elected president of the state implement dealers in December.

1927 — President and Mrs. Coolidge vacationed at the Game Lodge in the Black Hills . . . Gutzom Borglum, famous sculptor, was contracted to carve the images of America's national heroes on the face of the huge Rushmore mountain Col. Lindberg stopped at Pierre on September 1, on his cross-country trip . . . The Sully County Co-Operative Association paid out \$282,000 to farmers so far this year.

1928 — Sully County was considered throughout the state as being one of the very best governed counties of the Sunshine State Over 7,000 pheasants were purchased and liberated in South Dakota in the past six years, by the Fish and Game Department and interested sportsmen Beginning August 1, Onida switched from direct to alternating current. The city then had 180 h.p. units Frank Everts, Onida's first editor, passed away on October 21.

1929 — Miss Mildred Glessner won the ladies' athletic tournament single handed at Yankton College During the fiscal year ending June 30, the state Game & Fish Department planted nearly 15,000,000 fish of various varieties in the waters of South Dakota Miss Olive Akers broadjumped 18 feet, 10 inches at the ladies' track meet at the State University, which broke the ladies' record for

the state, nation and also believed to be the world's record.

1930 — Jack Reedy and Miss Betty Kirsch were married on February 18 at

Gettysburg, with the Rev. Father Patrick Ryan officiating "Talkies" were introduced to Onidans in March The total acreage in farms in Sully County was 280,400, operated by 585 farmers.

1931 — John A. Quade graduated, at the age of eighteen, from the junior college department of the Wentworth Military Academy, Lexington, Mo. . . .

Joe Mendel accepted an instructor and coaching position at the Faulkton high school Another track star, Wayne Nelson, likewise signed a contract as instructor and coach at the Wessington high school This was the driest year in the past fifty-six year record—such years occur once in a generation.

1932 — South Dakota received \$1,765,764 for road work from federal government as share of federal aid A car of grain containing 1,700 bushels oats and 500 bushels corn arrived in March for the disposal of Sully County Red Cross officials Grasshoppers threatening Sully County More than half of the sun was eclipsed on August 31. This will not occur again for thirty years.

1933 — Sully County's Golden Jubilee Year Mrs. V. M. McFall, first Sully County teacher and former superintendent of schools, passed away on March 19 Onida's drum corps, the world's smallest, entertained at the American Legion convention at the World's Fair in Chicago Onida received \$115.50 from gross income tax, and Sully County received \$589.50.

1934 — First white child born in Sully County, John Stanage, died at the age of 77 years Snow covered the ground in parts of Sully County on September 25 Mr. and Mrs. D. Q. Jordan, pioneer residents of Sully County observed their sixtieth wedding anniversary on October 20.

1935 — Little Bend was designated as a game preserve Strato balloon reached 74,000 feet and then landed safely Oysters sold for thirty cents a pint.

1936 — Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Garrett observe golden wedding anniversary Dorothy Lister enjoys thrills of European trip Nattress Store burns to ground Agar State Bank

merges with Potter County National Bank.

1937 — J. H. Gropengieser laid to rest Grace and Mary Warner present joint recital at Huron College Lester Eller loses 300 tons of feed in fire at farm.

1938 — Bill Durrstein, Orville Von Wald, Maynard Knox and Preston Starbuck shot four buffaloes at the Sutton ranch on January 11 Bauman's observed 20th anniversary in business Mrs. Anna Kubichek celebrated her 100th birthday Onida School Dairy Judging team wins first in South Dakota State Contest Plan extensive war on 'hoppers in Sully county. Five hundred tons of bait being mixed to get 'hoppers while they are young.

1939 — "History of Sully County" published Dr. Oscar Hedman rescued on the ill-fated Titanic 27 years ago Sully County to present pageant for 50th anniversary of statehood Grasshopper control covers 83,926 acres in Sully County Cleo Eller, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lester Eller, will be listed in the 1939-40 issue of "Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges."

1940 — Temperature ranges from 42 degrees below at Bison to 115 degrees above at Wood Mr. and Mrs. Dudley Palmer observe Golden Wedding Anniversary Many of our pioneers laid to rest: G. A. Fairbank, Mrs. Ed Sutton, James Pitlick, Sr., Frank Ripley, Johnson Wilcox and S. R. Jeffers.

1941 — Bernice Hardwick goes to National Declamatory Contest at Lexington, Kentucky Charlotte Abbott reigns as Queen of Second Annual Track Meet at Yankton College Mr. and Mrs. H. P. Knox celebrate 50th Wedding Anniversary H. P. Knox met death by drowning in Missouri River Pat Abbott sells drug store to Hershel Ellis Dial telephones put into service Mrs. Bessie Lumley retires as telephone operator after 23 years.

1942 — Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Bane observe 50th Wedding Anniversary Many Sully County pioneers passed away this year: Van Ludwig, B. M. Lister, Carmon L. Bates, O. D. Warne, Otto Nelson and Mrs. Carl Brandt Lt. James A. Hilton to receive medal for heroic action from U. S. Army Air Force John Bauman, Jr., elected to "Who's Who at University of South Dakota." John

Sutton, Jr., wins Liberty Ship Launching at Portland, Oregon.

1943 — The grasshopper menace grows more serious in Sully County . . . Francis L. Huffman, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harvey L. Huffman, will be listed in the 1942-43 issue of "Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges." . . . James Yackley completed medical work . . . Many Sully pioneers are laid to rest this year: William Wilcox, Mrs. Joseph Pitlick, Lucy Ann Blair, Frederick E. Fagner, Burton Eugene Gunsalus, Earl Newell Cass, Bertha May Howard, Mary Elizabeth Blair, Mrs. C. J. Johnson, Charles L. Glessner, and Mike Rivenes.

1944 — Mr. and Mrs. Frank Yackley celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary . . . Charles Coleman, who was born at Fort Sully on July 1, 1871 and lived all but eight years of his life in a log house in Little Bend, passed away at Spearfish on May 7 . . . Ernest E. Brooking passed away on October 28.

1945 — Roxy Theatre modernized . . . Ralph Ludwig buys Corner Store from Mr. and Mrs. John Bauman . . . Fred Brehe passed away at the age of 69. Came to Sully County in 1898 where he and his brother, Alex, homesteaded . . . Jacob Weischedel, pioneer resident, dies at the age of 84. Lived in Sully County since 1863 . . . W. J. Asmussen named Champion Farmer at Midwest Farmer Day . . . Other Sully pioneers leave us: Herbert Brooking, Jessie L. Livingstone, and Mrs. John A. Buck . . . Mr. and Mrs. Lamb buy Coffee Shop . . . Mr. and Mrs. Will Spencer sell cafe to Mrs. Emelia Rivenes.

1946 — Marvon Severson went into partnership with Cecil Hortman at the H & H Store . . . Death takes J. I. Rein, 82, pioneer of Sully County . . . Work has been started on the municipal airport . . . Arnold Schreiber accepted draft board honors in Washington, D. C. . . . 13,450 acres of state land were leased in 45 minutes in Sully County . . . Mrs. Belle Cole, 88, pioneer resident, called by death . . . Mrs. Belle Clark, 91, Sully County's oldest resident, honored . . . Sully County pays off all indebtedness . . . Polio calls halt to Sully County Fair . . . Twenty-fifth Sully County Fair to have free gate . . . Ray Bartels and George Hackworth purchased blacksmith shop . . . Mr. and Mrs. Mike Mikelsen celebrate 50 years of marriage.

1947 — Billy Buol chosen as House messenger . . . Mr. and Mrs. Fred Wakefield observe 50th Wedding Anniversary . . . Mrs. Fred Fagner, 80, early pioneer, passes . . . James Bown, pioneer, passes away . . . Mr. and Mrs. Les Swanson purchase Gamble Store after managing it since 1934 . . . Mrs. Carl Falkenhagen, pioneer lady, passes away . . . 350,000 perch planted in Cottonwood Lake . . . Farmers organize for weed control . . . Joyce Walter wins trip to National 4-H Club Congress, Chicago . . . Latest in dry cleaning machinery installed at Fosness Cleaners . . . T. D. Sutton, former Sully County sheriff, dies at Pierre . . . Mrs. Grace Byrum, 82, pioneer settler of Sully County died at Paonia, Colorado, home of her daughter, Mrs. E. V. Hadley . . . Steve Travis, former editor of Okobojo Times, passes away . . . Mr. and Mrs. Mike Lange celebrate Golden Wedding Anniversary.

1948 — H & H Motors hold open house in new garage building . . . Gerald J. Cavanaugh cited on Dean's honor list at Bucknell University for scholastic excellence . . . Francis Kane wins first in state poetry contest . . . Albert Youngberg presented medal for 50 years in Masonic Order . . . Lyle Sutton wins first prize in state Poppy Contest . . . More Sully County pioneers pass away: William H. Eckert, Miss Winnie Blair, William Schriever, H. C. Glessner, Mrs. Julia Gropengieser . . . Oahe dedication ceremony held for start of actual construction . . . Clarence Chase opens Bakery and Coffee Bar . . . Sully county schools received \$8,800.39 from office of State Superintendent of Schools.

1949 — Milton Ripley, early resident, dies . . . Mrs. George Becker elected president of State Federation of Extension Clubs . . . Mrs. David Rilling, early-day pioneer, passed quietly while she slept . . . Robert and Paul Ramler buy Connie's Electric . . . Red Owl Agency opens in Onida . . . Business section blacktopped and new water mains installed in Onida . . . George Henry Dunkle, early Sully pioneer, celebrates 90th birthday . . . Miss Joyce Walter named on the Bob Jones University Dean's list . . . Mrs. Josephine Sutton, Clark County, and aunt of the Sutton Brothers of Sully, celebrated her 96th birthday anniversary on February 3rd.

1950 — A record-breaking 10,400 trees planted on John W. Bush farm "Farming in the 50's" program and Mid-winter Crop Show, sponsored by Sully County Crop & Livestock Improvement Association Approximately 150 pelicans spent the night near the Dick Bramlette farm Annual costs of operating a 12-year school system in South Dakota average \$3,576 per teacher or \$225.00 per pupil About 50 farmers attend Crops Field Day at Henry Hertel farm.

1951 — Sully County had 134 claims for World War II bonus payments, for a total of \$60,729.50 Larry Vener represents Sully County 4-H Clubs for annual grain marketing trip to Minneapolis More of our old-timers pass away this year: Mrs. Belle Clark, Albert Youngberg, Mrs. Mary Scott and George Everett Frank Walsh buys Frozen Foods from Carl Berry John Byrum ranks second in State High School Scholastic examination; also receives annual Homestake Mining Company scholarship David Ridinger sails for Chile for a three-year stay as mining engineer Hospital Benefit Sale netted \$7,200 Alice Wipf goes as missionary to West Indies C. & N. W. Railway paid \$4,395.75 taxes in Sully Fire damages Wargo home Ray Bartels buys George Hackworth's share of Blacksmith shop Roger Garrett wins Denver trip by topping all contestants at Central South Dakota Calf Judging Show Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Doyle observe 50th Wedding Anniversary.

1952 — Thirty-four agricultural and newspaper representatives visit Sutton Brothers ranch Mr. and Mrs. A. S. Clouse observe 50th Wedding Anniversary Mike Lange reaches 80th milestone Seventh Annual Crop Show held March 1 Worst flood in years hits Pierre-Fort Pierre; loss set at \$25 million William L. Kennedy, 93, honored at a birthday party Mrs. John C. Quade is a first cousin, twice removed, of General David Dwight Eisenhower Air Shuttle feeds starving cattle.

1953 — Mr. and Mrs. Russell Hyde parents of twins, girl and boy, born 48 hours apart Mr. and Mrs. John McDeid observe Golden Anniversary Charles Byrum feted on 85th birthday Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hughart honored on 60th Wedding Anniversary

Teacher shortage presents problem County Auditor Edward Klix buys first driver's permit.

1954 — Many pioneers passed away: Mrs. Myrtle Glessner, Mrs. Louis Spaid, Henry Wilkins, Mrs. Ruby Haines, Mrs. Isabella Pierce, Buford Bramlette, Charles E. Johnson, and Paul Butzman Bob Koenig buys interest in C. R. Garner Real Estate and Insurance Agency Fire causes \$15,000 damage to Erp Service Station Mr. and Mrs. Lou Johnson celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary in California Mr. and Mrs. Harry Hilton celebrate 50th Wedding Anniversary Mrs. Corydon Ludwig cited as Sully County "Fine Lady." Mrs. Jim Sutton rated among top five at South Dakota Miss Universe Beauty Contest Mr. and Mrs. John Quade observe 50th Wedding Anniversary Mikkelsen Implement builds new structure at junction of Highway 83, west of Onida City limits Wilber Day wins Division B at Grand American Trap Shoot Stewart & Sons build new "home" just west of city limits.

1955 — More pioneers laid to rest: Sigfred Severson, Frank Weischedel, John Quade, Mrs. Addie Mundt, Alex Brehe, Mrs. H. P. Knox, Roy H. Harris and Albert Nelson Maynard Knox wins three titles at State Trap Shoot—state singles, state handicaps and state champion, of zone champion trophies Oliver Evans of Agar catches 19-pound catfish in Rudolph Mundt dam Eugene Crabtree and Harold Davis lease Mikkelsen Implement. New business will be called Hiway Garage Ray Doyle named Director of Assessments W B. Spears named to the Board of South Dakota Association of Realtors New County Board of Education is organized.

1956 — E. L. "Stub" Thompson, local publisher, was appointed local chairman of the Crusade for Freedom Mr. and Mrs. Mike Mikkelsen celebrate 60th Wedding Anniversary Bessie B. Lumley, pioneer Sully lady, honored on 77th birthday Former Onida high school 50 points a game star, Kent Hyde, featured in South Dakota Collegian, student newspaper at State College George H. Dunkle, 95, early-day Sully resident dies at his home in Verona, Pennsylvania L. C. Ridinger sells grocery store to Joe Kub of Ipswich

Frank Walsh sells Onida Frozen Foods to Pete Unruh Beverly Letellier rates Art Scholarship at University of South Dakota Jim Sutton named most valuable player on South Dakota State College's 1955-56 basketball squad Robert Demery buys Roxy Theatre from Glenn Woods Many of our pioneer people passed away this year: Mrs. John Miles, 92; Mrs. L. D. Johnson, former Sully County lady; Pat J. Kane, 77; Carl Louis Falkenhagen; Mrs. Nora Hertel; Hugh Palmer; Mike Mikkelsen; Joseph Hensley; Mrs. Francis Durrstein and Mrs. Tom Doyle Mrs. Vern Palmer named Fine Lady of Sully County Benny Gross named on State Agriculture Committee M. H. Quimby honored for 50 years of law practice Mr. and Mrs. Frank Serbousek honored on 50th Wedding Anniversary.

1957 — H & H Motors sold to John E. Sutton and Elliott Byrum

Walter Schreiber wins Sweepstakes award at Annual Crop Show Parker Knox is named to the Honorary Dean's list at Huron College Oahe Grain Corporation purchased Becker's bulk oil business Joe Lamb buys Birdsall Chevrolet Garage Kenneth Sutton is selected for Sears, Roebuck Scholarship at South Dakota State college Larry Cass receives a Pierre Production scholarship at South Dakota State College The people of Sully County lost more of their pioneer friends: John McDeid, Mrs. "Bud" Hess, J. C. Groseclose, Mrs. Fred Lehmkuhl, Harvey Seward, Mrs. Harry Hilton, Francis Pierce, and Everett Stewart New TV station at Reliance for this area

. . . . Benny Gross and C. H. Yackley tour Europe for seven weeks Donna Palmer rates in Junior Division at State "Wool" contest Ranch home of Mrs. Fern Barber burns Larry Cass admitted to Rooter Bums (men's pep club) at State College.

1958 — Mrs. Fern Barber, president of Huron College Alumni Association, spoke at the college's convocation . . . Sully County received \$34,334.09 when South Dakota paid its taxes on school land Jack Donahue, principal and instructor at Onida High School, rated scholarship for Science course at University of South Dakota Mrs. Art Wittler selected as Fine Lady of Sully County . . . W. J. Asmussen tops state in Soil Bank payments Buena Sutton chosen all-around cowgirl at regional high school rodeo at Blunt Lee Warne, Sully County rancher, elected president of University of South Dakota Alumni Association Col. Henry Smith elected chairman of state Citizen Traffic Safety Support Committee Sheldon K. Bright named State Legionnaire of Year Penny Cruthoff, junior at Huron College, was one of speakers at a speech tournament in Sioux Falls JoAnn Wittler chosen Betty Crocker Homemaker of tomorrow Peggy LaFave, Onida high school senior, is Betty Crocker Homemaker of Tomorrow.

Sully County Time Clock chimes its final note by naming those pioneers that passed to the great beyond this past year: Hattie Ripley, 84; Mary Winkler, 88; Mrs. Lizzie Fritz, 86; Carl E. Allison; Frank R. Burgeson, 79; and Martin McGuire, 69.

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and a

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Oldtimers

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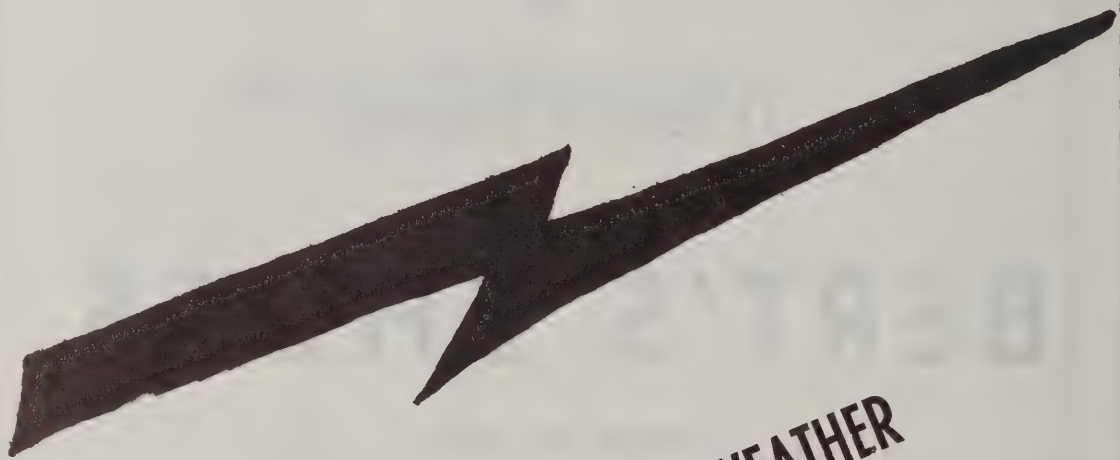
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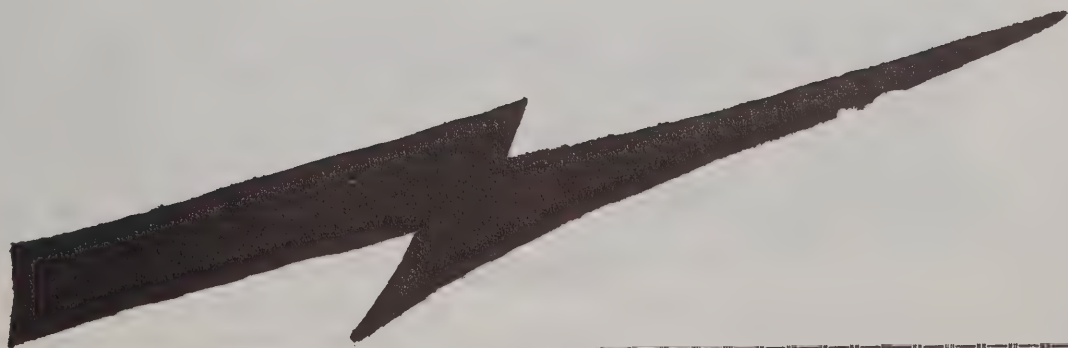
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Ray Pool, Blunt 1946-1955
Mike Smith, Agar 1946-1952
Fred Stoecker, Pierre 1946-1951
Roy Wiseman, Pierre 1946-1951
M. L. Barner, Harrold 1952-1956

MANAGERS

James Sunderland, 1949-1951
David Chapman, 1951-1952
Luther Anderson, 1952-1954

STILL SERVING

DIRECTORS

Donald Naughton, President, Agar, 1952
Theodore Krull, Vice President, Harrold, 1952
R. Guy Goddard, Secretary, Blunt, 1952
Swen Nystrom, Treasurer, Pierre, 1955
Wilbur Peterson, Director, Harrold, 1956

EMPLOYEES

G. E. Olerud, Manager, 1954
Wayne Pool, Line Foreman, 1949
Harry Crain, Lineman, 1951
Robert Gardner, Lineman, 1950
Robert Sevenson, Groundman, 1958
Mrs. Betty Erickson, Bookkeeper, 1952
Mrs. Carol Eckman, Cashier, 1955

OAHE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ASSN. INC.

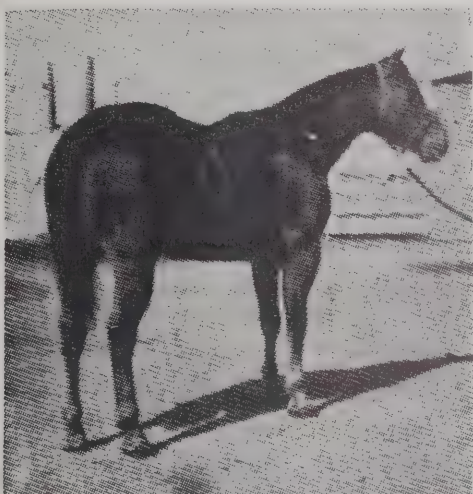
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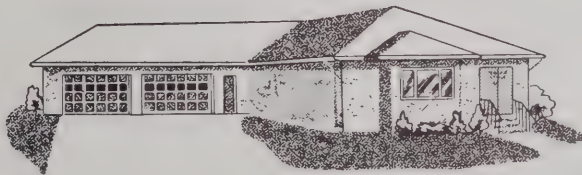
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Aerial View of the Nelson Homestead

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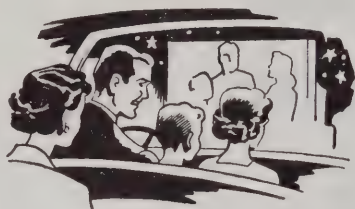
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ON YOUR 75TH ANNIVERSARY

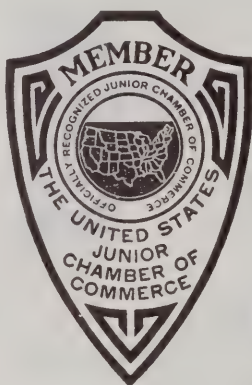
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We believe:

That faith in God gives meaning and purpose to human life;
That the brotherhood of men transcends the sovereignty of nations;
That economic justice can best be won by free men through free enterprise;
That government should be of laws rather than of men;
That earth's great treasure lies in human personality;
And that service to humanity is the best work of life.



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**"A Store for Women
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Gifts for All

Occasions

Where the Unusual
is Usual

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Have a Good Time, Oldtimers!

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Complete Tire Service

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New and Used Tires—All Sizes.—for Car, Truck, Tractor

Mercury Motors and Boats—Sales and Service

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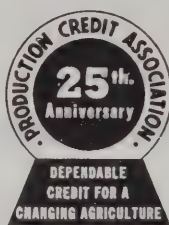
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75th

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25 Years of Dependable Credit

to Farmers and Ranchers



Pierre Production Credit Association

Pierre, South Dakota

Welcome

TO ONIDA

During the Jubilee and Every Day

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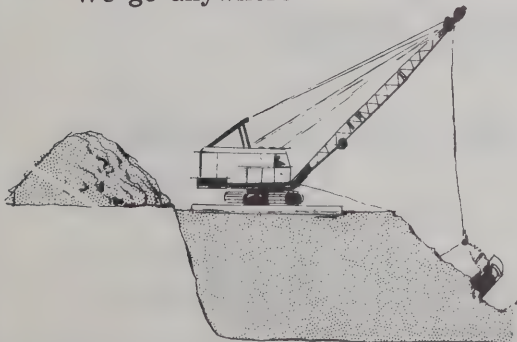
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Hottman Implement Co.

Congratulates Onida

on its Diamond Jubilee

Congratulations Onida

ROSE BEAUTY SHOP

HELEN KRUMREI

Gettysburg Motor Company

Congratulates Onida on their 75th Anniversary

EARL OLSEN — LEONA OLSEN

RONNY OLSEN — DOROTHY GUNSALUS

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WELCOME TO THE ONIDA JUBILEE DAYS

While you are here visiting come in and see us for the best in quality Farm Machinery and Motor Vehicles.

Our Parts and Shop Departments are one of the best in the area and we are well equipped to give prompt and courteous service.

See us for some real western hospitality, as well as John Deere, Farmhand farm machinery and the authorized franchised Ford, Mercury car sales and service.

Manager and President



Elliott and "Honest" John



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J. E. Sutton & E. E. Byrum
ONIDA, SO. DAK.

Mayor Lemmel and "Pappy" West

Randolph's — Since 1937

Cabinet Work — Sporting Goods — Mercury Outboard Motors

FT. PIERRE, S. DAK.



FACTORY AUTHORIZED MERCURY REPAIR SERVICE

1889

Seventy Years of Service to Christ and His Church

1959

First Presbyterian Church

Onida, South Dakota



Courtesy Presbyterian Men's Club

SULLY COUNTY FARM BUREAU

Actively organized in Sully County since 1920. Affiliated with the South Dakota State Farm Bureau Federation and American Farm Bureau Federation.

The Farm Bureau is a free, independent, non-governmental, voluntary organization of farm and ranch families, united for the purpose of analyzing their problems and formulating action to assist in the solving of these problems at local, state and national levels.

The Sully County Farm Bureau invites you who are not members to join its membership and participate in the formulating of policy and in the many services Farm Bureau offers you.

For further information contact:

Insurance Agent:

LOUIS FOSNESS

County Executive Board:

JIM BROOKING, Pres.

ADOLPH BREHE, Vice Pres.

EMEL JOHNSON, Sec.

HAROLD CURRIER, Treas.

OLIVER BYRUM, Director

L. RAY CASS, Director

CHAS. STEPHENS, Director

CLARENCE LUDWIG, Director

WAYNE NELSON, Director

Welcome to All The Old Timers
and Congratulations to
Onida on its 75th
Birthday

Herschel

Ruth

Pat

Icy

Janet

ELLIS DRUG

"Our Own Hardware"
F. S. ROWE & CO.

Ft. Pierre, S. Dak.

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- Speed Queen
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TO THE SULLY COUNTY FARMER



Our objectives are promoting Quality
Production in:

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- Feeds
- Livestock

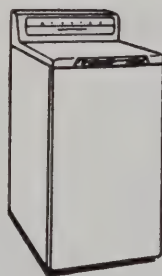
Member of S. D.
Crop Improvement
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Cooperating with
South Dakota State
College, U.S.D.A.
Extension Service

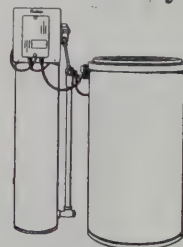
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all-fiberglass tanks
guaranteed for life



Lindsay Deluxe—compact,
self-contained, beautiful,
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DIMMICK IMPLEMENT COMPANY

314 SOUTH REED • PIERRE, SOUTH DAKOTA

MASSEY-FERGUSON

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**Congratulations Onida
on Your 75th Anniversary**

Ray and Linda Dimmick

The

Onida

Watchman

Congratulations Onida

ON YOUR 75TH ANNIVERSARY

Ben Franklin Store

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ELDON SMITH

VILAS REXALL DRUGS

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**Professional Pharmacists
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"50th YEAR IN PIERRE"

BEST SUCCESS TO JUBILEE

HOP-SCOTCH BAR

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Cocktails --- Lounge --- Dancing

THE MOST TALKED OF BAR IN THE WEST

Duffy's Cafe and Tavern

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Complete Parts and Service Department



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Hearty Greetings

TO OUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS

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Don and Edna Currier

COMPLIMENTS OF

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Pierre, S. D.

SOUTH DAKOTA'S OLDEST STORE — ESTABLISHED 1879

YOUNGBERG & SONS

PAINTING — SIGNS

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Congratulations Onida on Your 75th Anniversary

**Building Materials
Minnesota Paints**

**Low Monthly Payment
for Remodeling**

Peavey Lumber Yards

**Onida,
S. Dak.**



**Wilbur Hofer,
Manager**

Located in Onida because it's a wonderful town in which to build a home;
a good place to do business and a happy spot to live.

GOOD NEIGHBORS:

We're happy to congratulate our good neighbors in Sully County on the occasion of the Diamond Jubilee of your Trade Center — ONIDA. We hope you will participate and help to make it a tremendous success.

POTTER COUNTY NEWS

GETTYSBURG

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on your 75th Anniversary

JIM BOOCOCK'S MEN'S WEAR

Pierre, S. Dak.

THE HOME OF NAME BRANDS

Dwight's Super Value Congratulates Onida

ON YOUR DIAMOND JUBILEE

The oldest operating Food Merchant in Potter County

Complete Locker and Processing Service

GETTYSBURG, S. D.

Congratulations on Your Anniversary

Grain -- Feed -- Seed -- Salt -- Farm Chemicals

Stanley County Co-op Marketing Association

FORT PIERRE, S. DAK.



CONGRATULATIONS
ONIDA



on your

75th Anniversary

From

STEWART & SONS

PAULINE, DARWIN, VAN

JACK, CARL

"SPEED"

STOP AND SEE US ON "MACHINERY HILL"

MINN.-MOLINE — MELROE — MAYRATH — SCHAFFER

BUTLER — GEHL — OWATONNA

NOBLE — WISCONSIN

CONGRATULATIONS TO ONIDA

Chuckwagon Steak House

Fort Pierre, S. D.

Congratulations Onida

**We are proud to have been a part of your
Growth and Prosperity**

Pierre Bottling Works

Your Grain Belt and Storz Distributor

Hyland Angus Ranch

Registered Aberdeen Angus Cattle For Sale at all Times

Owned & Operated By

JENNINGS BROS.

Highmore, S. D.

ORDER BUYERS COMMERCIAL CATTLE

Drink Coca-Cola in Bottles



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PIERRE, S. DAK.**

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PHILGAS THE ALL PURPOSE FUEL**



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Phone 2402

Gettysburg, S. D.

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White Way Lockers

Processing and Quick Freezing

**Custom Butchering — Cutting
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Delicious Homemade Bologna

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Sutleys Appliance

Complete Line

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**School of Practical Nursing
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Established in 1928

ALL KINDS OF INSURANCE AT A SAVING

Gettysburg, South Dakota



KUNSTLE CLOTHING

CLOTHES FOR THE
ENTIRE FAMILY

Congratulations Onida

on 75 Years of Progress

WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR BUSINESS

Have a Good Time, Oldtimers!

PIERRE TRUCK LINE

CHARLES COWAN, Owner



Vail's
DRUG STORE
Walgreen Agency
GETTYSBURG, S. DAKOTA

Congratulations Onida
On your 75th Anniversary
ONIDA RED OWL



Groceries, Meats. We Give S&H Green Stamps
W. C. BECKER

Ft. Pierre Livestock Commission

Sale Every Thursday

Bull Sales and Special Sales as Advertised

**Feel free to call on us; we will be glad to
come out and look at your stock.**

**Check other markets and you will know you get more for your live-
stock at Ft. Pierre Livestock Commission. We buy horses at all times.**

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New Phone Number

BAldwin 3-2576

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Complete Lubrication

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Grain

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Seed

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Custom Grain Cleaning & Treating



GREETINGS OLDTIMERS

And Congratulations to Onida

on Your 75th Anniversary

Baxter Chemicals

Congratulations

ONIDA

On Your 75th Anniversary

1884 — 1959

FIRST POTTER COUNTY BANK

Phone 2441

GETTYSBURG, SOUTH DAKOTA

Established 1884

Affiliated with First Bank Stock Corporation

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JOE H. NEUMAYR
Attorney at Law

A. COE FRANKHAUSER
Attorney

E. W. URBANYI
M.D.

DR. C. C. BUDDE
Dentist

Congratulations

ONIDA

ON YOUR 75TH ANNIVERSARY



and a

Warm Welcome

to all the

Oldtimers!

From the Gettysburg Professional Fraternity

E. H. COLLINS, M.D.
Physician and Surgeon

DR. A. A. BUECHLER
Dentist

RONALD K. OLSEN
Attorney at Law

Congratulations Onida



C. R. GARNER OFFICE

R. L. KOENIG, ASSO.

**LANDS, LOANS,
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**Over 50 Years in
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Congratulations

to Onida

on its 75th Birthday

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Watches, Diamonds
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Largest Gift Selection in Central S. Dak.

FERLEY JEWELERS
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PIERRE, SOUTH DAKOTA

CONGRATULATIONS TO SULLY COUNTY RESIDENTS

Seventy-Fifth Anniversary

Sully County Land & Abstract Company

SINCE 1894

Bess Gropengieser

Agnes Noste

Celebrating with you wonderful people in this area

We've been serving you since 1941 with Tanning & Manufacturing of
Deerskin Gloves & Jackets, plus Taxidermy.

We now offer you another new service. We are Wholesale Jobbers on
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HELDT'S TAXIDERMY

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Congratulations to Onida and Sully County on Their 75th Anniversary

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